

# LITTLE VILLAGE

IOWA CITY'S NEIGHBORHOOD MAGAZINE

**TIPTON'S  
CUSTARD  
KING** P. 8

**FLOODPLAIN  
DEALING?** P. 14

**NAOMI  
JACKSON** P. 20





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# LITTLE VILLAGE

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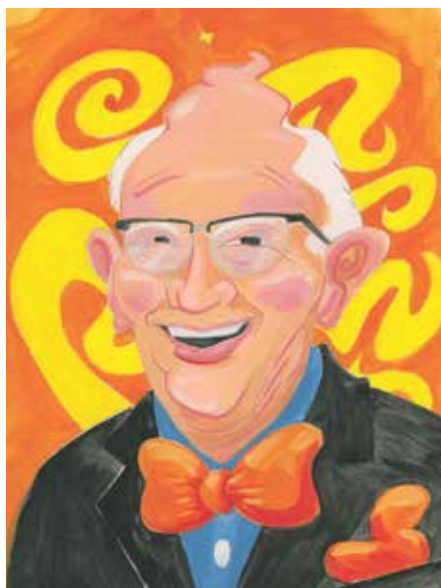


Photo by Frankie Schneckloth

# 8

## EAT. PLAY. LOVE.

Dave the Custard King shares his recipe for the sweet life.



### ON THE COVER:

David Gott illustration  
by Lev Cantoral

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## TROUBLE IN THE FLOODWAY?

One landowner raises questions about a local mine's impact.

**M E M B E R :**



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*\*Comments may be shortened or edited for style.*

## Recently Trending on [littlevillagemag.com](http://littlevillagemag.com)

**Huckabee's Game: Can he charm Iowa again?**

Fool Iowa once well ok but do it again no way. - Gary Lundquist

This guy is a grifter for Christ. He knows he has no shot at winning but he has to keep his face on the TV to keep the Fox news gigs and the book deals flowing. —Jim DeSchinckel

If he already has Chuck Norris, then there's really nothing else he can do... —Rich Young

**Photos: Mosley's Barbecue & Provisions set for opening weekend**

I work with Anna and I can't wait. I have heard all about it and I'm excited to see it and smell it for myself. —Kathy Klaus

I will be in the area from AZ this weekend and will be there to check it out if they open. Sean Keller is a chef extraordinaire! —Susan McGinnis

**Johnson County launches community ID program**

Community ID victory in Johnson County! It is a fact and I encourage you to get your ID. —Irund I. A-wan

**Photos: Camp Euforia 12 in Lone Tree**

Good times with good friends. —Nassor Cooper



Photo by Dawn Frary

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Does time served equal lessons learned?

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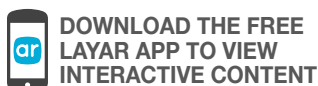
Debut novelist Naomi Jackson talks about the places and people who've influenced her work.

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# The Iowa City Area's 2015 Dining Guide

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## BE IT EVER SO HUMBLE...

Your summer vacation looks great on Facebook, but what are the costs of time away from home? • **BY THOMAS DEAN**



It's great to be home!"

A common refrain after a trip, whether returning from a vacation or a business trip, whether coming home after two days or two months, whether reconnecting with the hearth after travels across the state or across the ocean. Not long ago, my family and I returned from our annual trek to the Minnesota Northwoods. While we relish our time away in the beautiful boreal forest near the Boundary Waters and

### SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO?

A road sign on US-218 points to adventure and connection. Photo Adam Burke

are reenergized by wilderness, I also embrace the return home to familiarity. But I'd like to suggest that there's a deeper dimension to what happens to our relationship with home when we travel. Missing home when we're away involves more than just being away

from the comforts of familiarity. It also means that we are missing out on the experience of a place that grounds our lives.

We often feel the need to experience other places because, if we don't, we're "missing out" on what the world has to offer. That certainly can be true. But few acknowledge—or even realize—that there is loss as well as gain when we go away from home. On a surface level, we miss out on whatever is happening at home. On a deeper level, we sacrifice building connections to home that are crucial to our grounding in the world. The former can be made up fairly easily by reading a newspaper or catching up on Facebook. The latter is a loss that can't be recovered.

Anything that requires significant time and attention succeeds through persistence and consistency. When crocheting, mess up a stitch and the whole blanket can be ruined. When building a house, fail to get joists positioned properly and a floor can collapse.

Building a strong connection to home, whether our abode or our community, requires the same type of intricate persistence. The foundation of home is created in the gathering of the results of daily ritual and dedicated community work over time. We build knowledge of what is best for ourselves, our families, our neighbors and the natural landscape in which we dwell through meticulous attention to, and tenacious practice of, the rhythms of life that are the stuff of producing social capital and caring for the land. Creating a home is a project that fails without commitment—and dedication—to the daily work that

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So when we go away from home, especially for any length of time, we've dropped some stitches, made a character inconsistent, fudged on the placement of a joist. While we were ensconced in the Northwoods for ten days, I missed the gradual loss of three minutes of daylight and the subtle shifts in shadows that resulted. I missed the atmospheric drama of two thunderstorms. I missed attending a meeting of the Iowa City Public Library Board of Trustees on which I sit. I missed joining the

## Creating a home is a project that fails without commitment.

crowds at the first day of the Iowa City Jazz Festival. These may seem like minor losses, but they are nevertheless important threads that make up the tapestry of home. My intimacy with place and community has been weakened and diminished.

I am not advocating never leaving your home community—far from it. But I am hoping more people will appreciate the losses, both subtle and great, that come when we leave home behind. When we travel, we broaden our experience of the new, but we also sacrifice some depth of connection to home ground. This is the lot of material beings who cannot be in more than one place at once. Finding the balance between cultivating home ties and gaining experience elsewhere is a human dilemma that I don't believe many people truly appreciate. **lv**

*Thomas Dean is glad to be home.*

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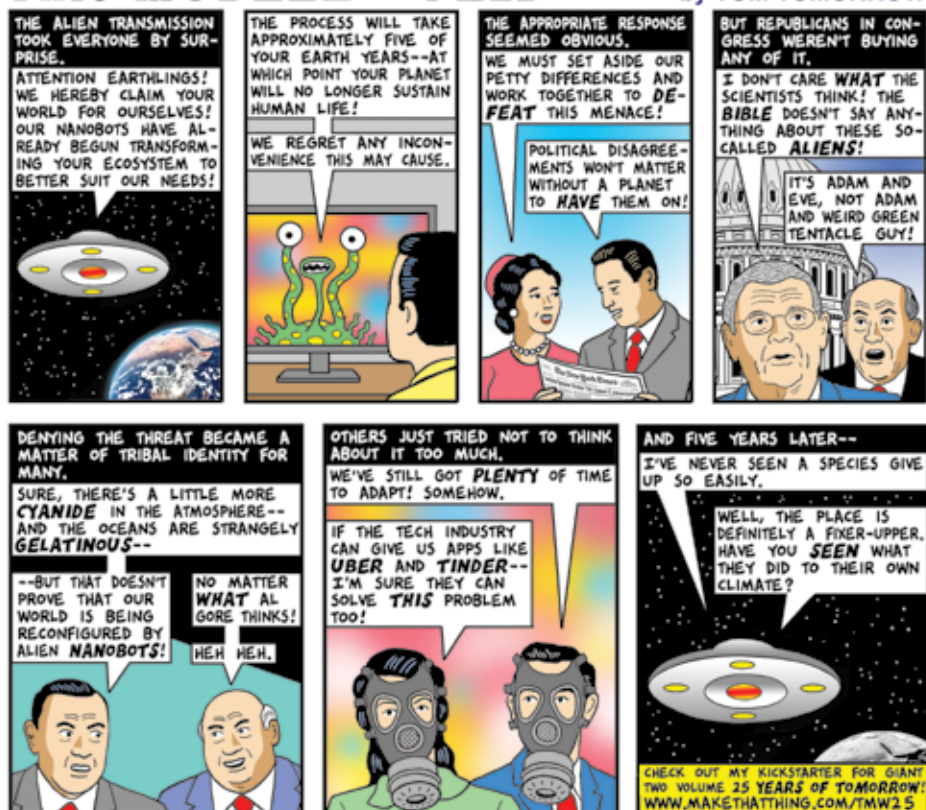
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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



Frozen custard was invented  
on Coney Island in 1919.

## SEA SALT CARAMEL

### DAVID'S FAMOUS FROZEN CUSTARD

TIPTON, IA

it's a combination of my grandmother's recipe and a recipe from a church cookbook.

**So it runs in the family?** I'm a good cook because my grandmother was a good cook. I grew up here in Iowa, and on Sundays, we alternated between my maternal and paternal grandparent's homes for dinner. It was my mom's mom, though, who was the real cook. God, she could make the best fried chicken, and she baked, and fried donuts and long johns. Every year for my birthday she'd bake me a chocolate chip cake. She'd add a scoop of ice cream, real ice cream with milk from her cows and eggs from her chickens, and I'd stir it all up together and eat it with a spoon. Now that was heaven!

**What was the first frozen custard flavor?** There was one especially hot Iowa summer when I'd take my family out for ice cream looking for a particular coffee flavor that seemed to be perpetually sold-out. I said, heck, I'll make my own. That first coffee ice cream had six shots of espresso in it, and you can bet that I roasted the beans myself. Next came dutch chocolate, and strawberry after that.

**And then you were famous.** Pretty much.

Photo by Adam Burke



**A**s Fro-Yo shops and other health-conscious confectioners pop up around the Midwest, one man is bent on producing a homestyle custard that boasts twice the butterfat and eggs as his ice-cream peers. Rich flavors like sea salt caramel and butter mint, all without the gobs of brownie or candy sediments like many other ice creams, make for a refreshing reprieve on a steamy Iowa summer night. The man behind David's Famous Frozen Custard, David Gott, shared his story with *Little Village*.

**I'm curious about the distinction between ice cream and frozen custard. What makes frozen custard frozen custard? I'd like to hear that from the Custard King.** Zero to 1.39 percent egg yolk solids, and you've got ice cream, 1.4 percent and up and you're talking frozen custard. Not all ice cream is frozen custard, but all frozen custard is ice cream.

**You started making David's Famous once you retired from a career in finance. Have you always had culinary interests?** I never

retired! Retired means you quit being productive and that's not the case with me. But yes, I could always boil water with the best of them. When I was twelve I experimented in the kitchen and produced my first cherry pie, and everyone in my family pretended it was good. But in addition to David's, I'm a griller and a smoker. I'd like to think I'm not your typical knuckle-dragger at the grill. I smoked a Boston Butt and some Salmon for some of our digital people and they just thought it was the best. With David's Famous Frozen Custard,

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We'd take the ice cream to picnics and parties and it was always a hit. My daughter was our first salesperson; she was 14 at the time. When RAGBRAI went through South Amana, she sold nearly \$700 worth of my frozen custard in less than three hours. It made an instant buzz. Folks were parking their bikes and calling their buddies and spreading the word that first day. And we haven't changed much since then. We use Madagascar vanilla, we make our own rhubarb sauce, we make our own caramel with real sugar. Twice the cream, fifty percent total solids, and twice the eggs as anybody else in the freezer by a factor or two.

**"Not all ice cream is frozen custard, but all frozen custard is ice cream."**

**Both of your sons work for the company, too. What are the challenges and joys of being in business with your family?** I love my kids; they're the biggest part of why I do this. My oldest son was stationed in Savannah, Georgia, and it was our plan to open the first David's Famous Frozen Custard shop down there. Now he has passed away and his two brothers decided to come work for me. I didn't ask them. My youngest is our production manager and my middle son is an attorney and handles our legal marketing. You may have heard this before, but if you don't want to work, find the thing you love, it's true. Making frozen custard with my family is what I love.

**TRY FOR YOURSELF:** David's Famous Frozen Custard is made in Tipton, Iowa and can be found in Iowa City in the freezer at Bread Garden, Hy-Vee and Lucky's Market. Flavors include coffee, dutch chocolate, lemon, butter mint, sea salt caramel, vanilla and rhubarb. **IV**

*Tim Taranto holds a BFA in Painting from Cornell University and an MFA in Fiction from the Iowa Writers' Workshop.*



Photo by Adam Burke

**BREW OF THE MONTH: AUGUST**

## SCHILD BRAU AMBER

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**Barley yields** the unfermentable carb, Dextrin, responsible for beer's flavor, body, and mouthfeel.

**T**o commemorate Millstream Brewing Company's 30th anniversary, *LV*'s August beer of the month is Millstream's internationally acclaimed flagship beer — Schild Brau Amber.

Millstream has brewed Schild Brau Amber since the Amana-based brewery opened in 1985. The beer's many awards include a gold medal in the Vienna-Style Lager category at the 2010 World Beer Cup.

Pour Schild Brau Amber into a favorite pint or pilsner glass. The color leans toward deep amber with tones of red and bronze. A finger-width of tight, creamy, bubble-spotted, lightly tinted head will dissipate evenly, leaving a short trail of foam on the side of the glass, along with an even skim and a ring around the edge. The Amber features scents of toasted malt and caramel as well as a little toffee and hints of cherry licorice. Mount Hood and Millennium hops offer floral and herbal aromas backed up by a mild spice.

The mouthfeel is smooth and creamy, and the flavor mostly mirrors the smell. The malts provide flavors of caramel and toffee while the hops give the beer a light bitterness, a touch of spice, and floral and herbal qualities.

To celebrate its 30th anniversary, the brewery is hosting a party on Saturday, August 29 at 5 p.m. Millstream's founders and current owners will be in attendance, and a special celebration beer—brewed by past and present Millstream brewers—will be available. Iowa City-based rock group Dogs on Skis will perform, and food will be provided. The annual Tour de Brew, which was rescheduled due to bad weather, will take place in the morning.

**SERVING TEMPERATURE:** 45–50°F.

**ALCOHOL CONTENT:** 5.4 percent ABV.

**FOOD PAIRINGS:** Millstream co-owner Teresa Albert recommends caramelized foods such as barbeque, grilled vegetables, charbroiled steak, pizza, sausages, baked ham, pork chops and smoked fish.

**WHERE TO BUY:** Schild Brau Amber can be found at most area beer retailers. In recognition of the brewery's anniversary, Albert said the beer will feature retro packing in August. It is also on tap at Lucky's Market, the Hy-Vees on Waterfront and North Dodge, Shorts Burger and Shine, Quinton's, Clinton Street Social Club, Mondo's and Olive Garden. It is also available on tap and for purchase at the brewery (835 48th Avenue, Amana)

**PRICE:** \$8 per six-pack. **IV**

*Casey Wagner works and lives in Iowa City.*

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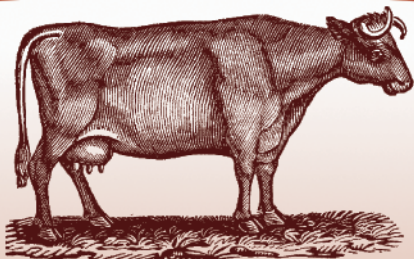
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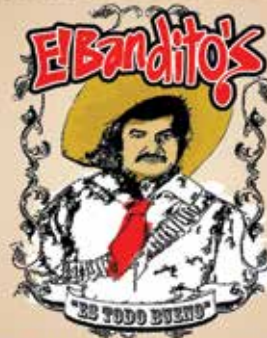


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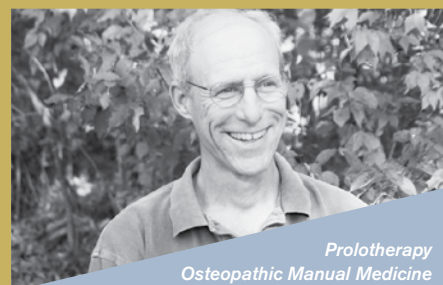
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## WHAT HAVE I LEARNED IN PRISON?

Notes from the Inside features original writing by inmates serving time in Iowa Prisons. *Little Village* editors have made only minor adjustments for style. • BY BRANDON F., RICK K. and TIM P.



**I** was asked to write on what I've learned in prison. I think I was picked as kind of a joke, but as I got to think about it... maybe someone has seen some changes in me.

I'm not big or really smart, but something I have learned is that I have a big heart, and even though I get dumped on a lot, I still bounce back. I don't know if I can number or put in order all the things I have learned in prison—good and bad. One thing is prison is what you make of it. Life goes on with you being in prison even though time almost stops in here. When you're out there, people tend to think the world revolves around them. You find out different in here. You miss your loved ones so bad and it hurts and you hope they don't miss you that bad—because you don't want to ever hurt your loved ones.

So I've learned to pass the time and not be selfish. I am growing spiritually, artistically, vocationally and intellectually. I've learned to live on a budget and live within my means. I've learned I can be independent, to be myself, and people like me. That is sometimes hard to say because before my charges, I know how people look at you on the streets once

**TO ERR IS HUMAN** | *Incarceration leaves time for reflection. Illustration by Josh Carroll.*

they find out you've been to prison. The news amps everything up, making us look bad, so I've learned not to judge people as bad. Everyone makes mistakes, it's just who gets caught. That is what I have learned—I am a good person with a big heart, and I've learned who I am, and I like who that is.

—Brandon F.

I've learned that all humans make mistakes, and some are sentenced to incarceration. Some people are guilty and some may not be. I've learned there is a lot of injustice in the Iowa legal system starting with the arresting officers, then the courts and then the Department of Corrections. I've learned many Iowans' constitutional rights are not fought for or upheld, either by a public defender or even by paid representative. Some work basically with only a plea bargain system. I've learned many convicted people congest the courts for some kind of magical solution to "get out of jail free" or for some lesser charge after they

have been convicted. Many cases have been denied that should have been looked into further. I've also learned that the guilty get lesser time because they admit to a crime, which saves the court time and money.

I don't really care why people are here in prison. I know why I am here, and they know why they are here. They know if they belong or not. I'm only stating my views on what I've learned here. I hope if you've committed a crime you get the help you need; if not, I also hope you get the help you need. There is no consistency in the law or the sentences imposed for breaking the law—violent, non-violent—it doesn't matter. It comes down to how good your lawyer is. Prison is not what citizens are expected to believe. It is a money pit for taxpayers. This is my opinion. And remember, everyone makes mistakes.

—Rick K.

What is prison for? If you would have asked me a few years ago, I would have said, "A place to punish bad people." Having spent some time here, I've come to understand that many are not bad; they have just done some bad things. Rather than looking with compassion—why did this happen and how can we help prevent it from happening again—men are just hidden away. And while this punishes the families that depend on that man, for the most part, prison is easy time.

What is freedom? That would have seemed an easy question to answer, "Getting to do what you want, when you want and no barbed wire." However, if what a person wants to do involves some form of addictive behavior, or if the one who gets to go home at the end of the day views life as a drudgery, both have less freedom than the one in prison. Celebrate Recovery can help one find the truth that sets one free.

Who am I? The courts and media place a label on me, but are a few bad decisions in the past really who we are? It is usually the self-righteous who are struggling with some guilt and shame of their own, who want to label others to put them down so they can feel better about themselves. "At least I am not as bad as so and so." How sad! There are those who



continue to live out their label, they continue to lust and steal and stir up trouble, but others live as a new person ready to change and help others.

**"Rather than thinking about myself and what others can do for me, I've learned to think of others first."**

**—Tim P.**

What am I here for? I am not asking about the crime or the sentence. How are you making use of your time? Are you just sitting in front of the TV and working on filling your belly? We have so much time and so little responsibility—why waste it? Rather than thinking about myself and what others can do for me, I've learned to think of others first.

I took time to learn to paint so I could teach my children that they can do more than they once thought possible. I learned to play guitar, not only to honor the Lord in worship, but also to make music with my family one day. I've also learned to write songs to share with them some new perspectives I have gained while being here. I have started to learn Spanish, to teach my children how to reach out to those who at first may seem different. On the outside, there were times when I was so busy and would take family for granted. Now I've learned how laudable they are. Now, everything I do is in connection with reaching out to them, encouraging them to rise above the brokenness of being separated from their father. **lv**

—Tim P.



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## BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

An Iowa City-area landowner takes issue with a mining company's potentially harmful practices. • **BY ERICA BLAIR**



meet Loren Southwick at the Ryerson's Woods parking lot. We shake hands, and I hop into a black pickup. Southwick, a retired contractor and engineer who currently lives in Missouri, owns four properties about a mile away, just south of Iowa City limits on the Camino Del Rio, a secluded road that traces the Iowa River.

We head south, turn left on Izaak Walton Road and go straight onto a narrow gravel lane bordered by trees and shrubs. We roll a little further until Southwick stops the truck and points out the passenger window.

"You see them over there on the horizon?" he asks.

I can't. I squint, but I only see leaves.

We creep forward a few inches. Then, through a gap framed by foliage, they appear: short, gray mountains. Stockpiled sand, owned and operated by a mining company called S&G Materials.

Southwick has with him a clipboard thick with printed-out emails, sloppy hand-written notes, phone numbers and typed letters. There's one addressed to Senator Bolkom, one from Senator Dave Loebsack, one to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, several to the Johnson County Planning and Zoning Administrator and numerous back-and-forths with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Shuffling through the pages, he finds a tiny

map printed from the FEMA website and points to a shaded area.

"That's where they are," Southwick says. "Right in the middle of the floodway."

And he's been worried about it now for two years.

\* \* \*

FEMA defines floodplain and floodway differently, and the distinction is crucial to communities. While a floodplain primarily stores water within the 100-year flood boundary, a floodway carries the deepest, fastest floodwater within the channel and along adjoining land. FEMA regulates these areas differently, too.

As a participant of the National Flood Insurance Program, Johnson County has its own floodplain management ordinance that is required to meet FEMA's minimum standards. It states: "No use shall be permitted in the floodway that would result in any increase in the 100-year flood level."

Bill Cappuccio, the DNR's State National Flood Insurance Program Coordinator, explained. "The idea of the floodway is the area we want to leave unobstructed," he said. "So any development that results in the obstruction of flood flows is usually going to be a problem in the floodway."

Such development could include not just buildings, but also waste, storage, fill—even sand deposits. The restriction is meant to

**MOUNDS AND MOUNDS** | A mining company south of Iowa City has been the subject of recent scrutiny. Photo by Adam Burke.

minimize damage.

According to Julie Tallman, Iowa City's Development Regulations Specialist, developing in a floodway is very uncommon—partly because there are so many limitations, and partly because it's not attractive to many industries. The risk of flooding is too great.

Things like parks, golf courses and farmland are usually acceptable. But before doing anything at all, developers must provide proof from an engineer—often in the form of a "no-rise" certificate—that activities in the floodway won't raise flood elevations.

"I've seen the DNR deny permits for somebody to put a boat dock in the Iowa River," Tallman said, "because they couldn't provide a 'no-rise' certificate."

Therein lies Southwick's problem with S & G Materials.

\* \* \*

S&G mines sand and gravel and supplies construction materials like "concrete sand, mason sand, river rock, black dirt, recycled concrete products and asphalt millings," according to its website. It's hard to see what the company does from the ground, since it's tucked away on a private road, but the photos Southwick took from his plane give a better

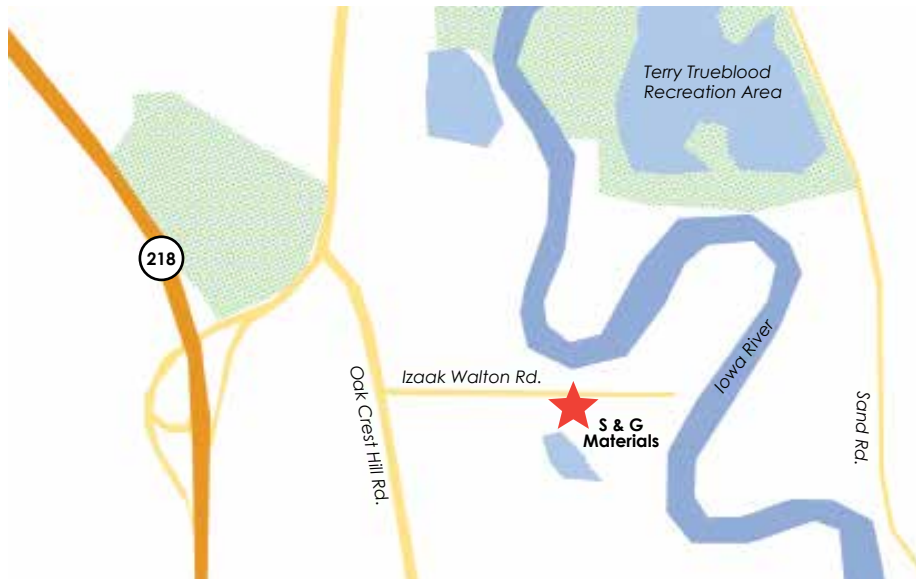


picture. Large cone-shaped hills dot the land, mechanical arms suspended over their peaks, spent quarries-turned-lakes all around.

In the early 2000s, S&G originally stockpiled materials within the floodplain. Later on,

“For some reason, someone thought that this project was permitted by the DNR, and it has not been permitted by the DNR,” Cappuccio said.

Maury Sass, superintendent of S&G



though, the company migrated east into 16.68 acres of the floodway -- a move that, in theory, first requires an engineer’s hydraulic analysis.

Southwick has been hunting for this document, but he’s turned up nothing. Cappuccio said the DNR is unaware of any such study.

Even so, S&G has expanded its operations with approval from Iowa City and Johnson

Materials, declined to comment.

\* \* \*

Meanwhile, Southwick continues sending emails and making phone calls. He’s not only concerned about the stockpiled sand and gravel less than a mile from his properties, but S&G’s other alleged activities, like raising the road, blocking off a stream that once connected to the Iowa River, and constructing a dike around the operations—all of which Southwick claims are illegal.

It’s difficult to know what direct effect S&G’s activities have had on the area. Last year, when Southwick couldn’t access his homes because the road flooded, was S&G responsible?

“If you’re going to put me in the bottom of a pond, which is in effect what they’re doing, now we’re in trouble,” Southwick said. “One inch can cost you tens of thousands of dollars.”

So far, though, his complaints have yielded few results.

**"That's where they are," Southwick says. "Right in the middle of the floodway."**



County Planning and Zoning Commissions: the company received a temporary conditional use permit for concrete processing in 2010, and in order to continue these operations on a permanent basis, the land was rezoned from Agricultural to Light Industrial in 2013.

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"I wrote every Board of Supervisors individually and not a one of them responded," he said.

But with so many agencies involved in floodplain management, whose responsibility is it, really, to ensure floodway regulations are being followed? FEMA? The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers? The DNR? Johnson County? Iowa City?

Throughout this investigation, the answer grew increasingly complex. Iowa City pointed to the DNR. The DNR pointed to Johnson County. Johnson County pointed to S&G.

According to Rick Dvorak, the Johnson County Planning and Zoning Administrator in charge of enforcing the county's floodplain ordinance, the company initially contended that the land, though surrounded by floodway, could be developed because its elevation was higher than the 100-year flood level. Dvorak took their word for it. But now, he's "putting the burden" on S&G to verify that the land's original elevation met Johnson County's requirements in the first place.

It wasn't long ago that Dvorak dealt with

a similar situation. In 2013, around the same time Southwick sent his first complaint, Iowa City-based companies Streb Construction and Maxwell Construction placed a 10- to 15-foot-tall dirt pile in the floodway—seemingly the same thing S&G is doing now. The DNR inspected the site, accompanied by Dvorak, and sent a Letter of Non-Compliance to the companies.

The DNR will make a Community Assistance Visit to Johnson County in late July, Dvorak said.

The visit, made on behalf of FEMA, "serves the dual purpose of providing technical assistance to the community and assuring that the community is adequately enforcing its floodplain management regulations," according to FEMA's website. It generally involves reviewing development in the floodplain and floodway, inspecting documents and permits, and meeting with officials.

If Johnson County is found to be non-compliant with its floodplain management regulations, it could result in a yearlong probation period to correct violations or

administrative problems. In the worst-case scenario, if problems still remain, the county could be suspended from the National Flood Insurance Program. This would render the county ineligible to purchase flood insurance from the government, making flood recovery an even greater struggle for property owners.

"Anybody who has flood insurance, their policy will expire," Cappuccio said. "It basically won't be renewed."

But that's just one reason to ensure regulations are followed, he said.

"The regulations are intended to lessen the effects of floods on people and their properties."

If Johnson County is found to be noncompliant with regulations and fails to correct violations or administrative problems, the result could be probation or even suspension from the National Flood Insurance Program. This would render the county ineligible to purchase flood insurance from the government, making flood recovery an even greater struggle for property owners. **lv**

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# IOWA'S GREAT LAKES, DICKINSON COUNTY

BY DAWN FRARY

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Iowa's northwestern Great Lakes region — sometimes referred to simply as "Okoboji" — offers endless summer fun for salty sailors and land-lovers alike. Take in a drive-in movie, visit a classic car or maritime museum, or simply spend the day sailing, kayaking, paddle boarding, jet skiing or swimming until the sun goes down.

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- 2 LEARN:** Okoboji is home to the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, which offers science and ecology classes and community outreach, as well as awesome "science cabins" and hiking trails.
- 3 AWE:** The Grotto of the Redemption, located about an hour south of the Great Lakes, is built entirely of petrified wood, agates, geodes, jasper, quartz, calcite, azurite and other precious stones. The largest man-made Grotto in the world, it is sometimes referred to as the "Eighth Wonder of the World."

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## HOME IS BETWEEN YOUR TEETH

On the heels of her debut novel's release, Naomi Jackson talks about family, influence and her formative years in Barbados and Brooklyn.

BY LUCY MORRIS

**M**ention Naomi Jackson's name to anyone who's been on the local literary scene for a few years and you'll elicit an excited, "Oh!" Readings she did while a student at the Iowa Writers' Workshop are still talked about—the way she could quickly transport a room of listeners to a late night in a graveyard across the world.

Her debut novel, *The Star Side of Bird Hill*, published by Penguin Press in June, is the culmination of work she completed here and elsewhere. Set in Barbados and Brooklyn, it treats the diverse experiences of its characters with equal finesse and care—whether a teenage girl's sexual experimentation, or her grandmother's reflections on a life mostly lived—and moves between cultures, generations and place with captivating grace.

The recipient of a Fulbright to South Africa, *Publisher's Weekly* recently named Jackson a "Writer to Watch." She answered our questions while on her book tour, which brought her to Prairie Lights on July 20.

**Your book tracks a family of women, the male members of which are not really present except in their absences. I found it thrilling to be so steeped in these female experiences. Was it a conscious choice to focus so much on women's inner and outer lives, or did that happen organically?** I wouldn't say that it was a conscious choice to focus on the women characters' inner and outer lives, but this intense focus on women is certainly an outgrowth of my interests as a writer and a person. I think it's fair to say that the book has a feminist impulse, by which I mean that I place a high value on the thoughts, feelings and experiences of women in my work.

**I was also excited by the intergenerational perspectives you use. Each of the women relates to Bird Hill and its sense of home in different ways. The grandmother, Hyacinth, has lived there her whole life; her daughter Avril left for Brooklyn and remains fairly remote; and her ten- and sixteen-year-old daughters move between worlds with different attachments and ambivalences about each place. What made you tell the story this way, rather than just from one vantage point?** Establishing the best point of view for this novel was challenging. I started by writing in Phaedra's perspective, and then I was writing the book from the perspective of the "hill women" in the community, and finally I settled on a shared point of view that allowed me to see Barbados and Brooklyn from the perspective of all the women in the family. As you confirmed, this storytelling device made the

narrative truly intergenerational, and I think the book is a richer, more satisfying read because of this choice.

**The book draws on many elements from your own life, including growing up in Brooklyn and spending time in Barbados in the late '80s. What was the work like of integrating these memoiristic aspects into the novel?** I wouldn't characterize the book as memoiristic; it's a work of fiction that shares some autobiographical territory with my own life but also veers significantly in other directions. I like to say that the most interesting things in the book didn't happen to me. As with life, it's complicated. I did

grow up in Brooklyn and visit Barbados in the late 1980s, but, for example, my parents are alive, and I never got into half as much adventure and trouble as Phaedra and Dionne do in *The Star Side of Bird Hill*.

**You worked on the book in a number of places, including Barbados, Philadelphia,**

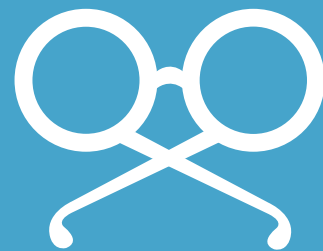


Illustration by Cheryl Graham





# THE STAR SIDE OF BIRD HILL



NAOMI JACKSON

and here in Iowa City during your time at the Workshop. Did that experience of relocation during the process affect a book

**"I like to say that the most interesting things in the book didn't happen to me. As with life, it's complicated."**

that's so much about place? I did move around quite a bit while I was working on this book. I think that the world of this novel—and writing more generally—was a grounding, steady force in the midst of all the change and relocation I was experiencing. I'm reminded here of Maya Angelou's quote, "home is between your teeth." I can certainly relate to that, and I do think

## LOCAL ISSUE

**TITLE:** The Star Side of Bird Hill

**AUTHOR:** Naomi Jackson

**GENRE:** Fiction

**PUBLISHER:** Penguin Press

**RELEASE DATE:** June 2015

that there's some meaning in the fact that this novel is so much about two places—Flatbush in Brooklyn and Bird Hill in Barbados—while I wasn't anchored to a specific place.

The book deals so much with ways people speak and what that signifies about them, including where they're from. Was it im-

portant to you to get those actual voices and accents and how they're regarded onto the page? You've touched the heart of what was important to me in the novel. Getting the accents, voices, and expressed emotions of the characters right was very important to me. I spent the summer between my two years at the Iowa Writers' Workshop researching and writing this novel; much of this research focused on listening closely to how people spoke. I hope that the book reflects this attentiveness and care.

How does it feel now that the book's been released into the world? Surreal. Thrilling. Exciting. Nerve wracking. Weird. All of the above. Seriously, though, I'm really happy to have given the gift of this book to the world, and to engage with my readers about it. **lv**

*Lucy Morris writes and translates in Iowa City.*

  
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## EQUAL BEFORE THE LAW

*Equal Before the Law* (UI Press, 2015) acquaints readers with the people involved in *Varnum v. Brein*, the case that brought same-sex marriage to Iowa in 2009. • **BY KENT WILLIAMS**

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that same-sex marriage is legal across all 50 states. Less than 20 years ago, a bipartisan Congress passed the Defense of Marriage Act, and a 'liberal' Democratic President signed it into law. Most people, even those who supported LGBT rights, never expected to see the right for same-sex couples to marry to be the law of the Land.

In Iowa, the idea that the Iowa Supreme Court would rule that same-sex couple be allowed to marry was likewise thought to be unlikely. And yet, in 2009, it happened.

*Equal Before The Law*, written by former *Des Moines Register* reporters Tom Witosky and Marc Hansen, is a history of the landmark 2009 ruling by the Iowa Supreme Court in the case of *Varnum v. Brien*. Though the book was released in June, when the upcoming U.S. Supreme Court decision was imminent, the publication date was fitting in hindsight, coinciding with a monumental change for gay rights under the law.

There could be several different books describing the remarkable evolution in the the country's attitude towards same-sex marriage: partisan polemics, personal narratives of participants, or dry scholarly deconstruction. *Equal Before The Law*, as befits a book by newspaper reporters, places its emphasis on factual reporting and even-handed treatment of subjects on both sides of the issue.

The book begins with the story of McKinley BarbouRoske, daughter of eventual plaintiffs Jen and Dawn, who at five was upset to find out that her two moms were not

married. McKinley's personality is central to the book's narrative, both as an appealing

court.

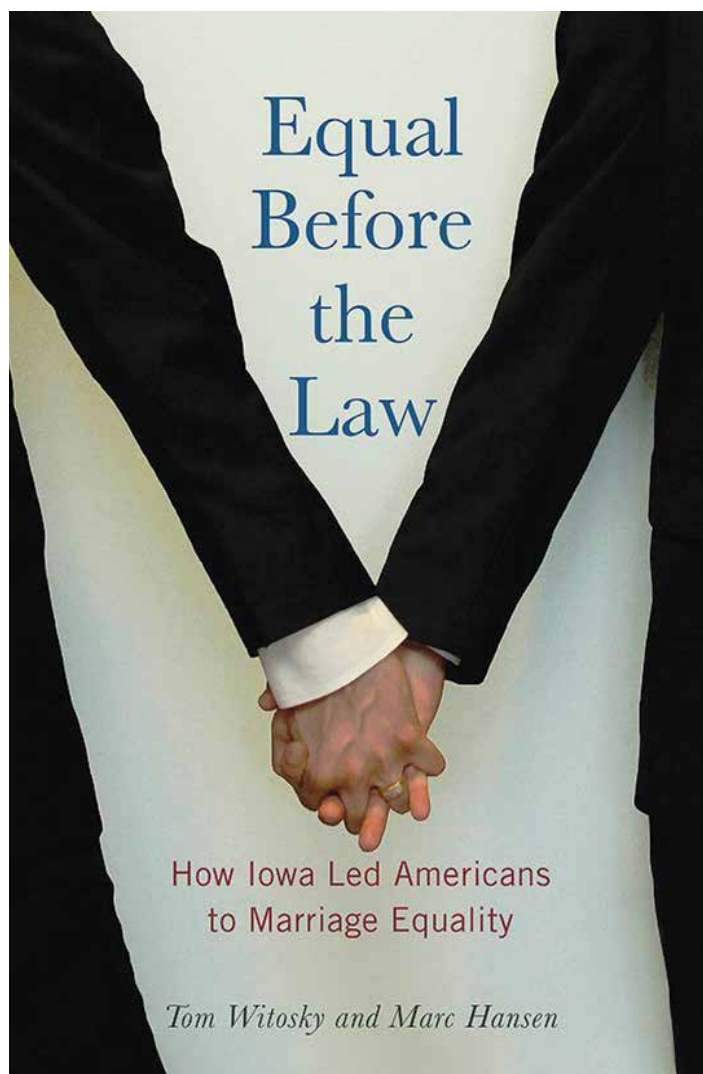
The book also gives a short history of the equal protection clause of the Iowa Constitution and Iowa's history of progressive civil rights legislation and court decisions. The first article, which begins "All men are, by nature, free and equal," bears directly on how the court found the right to same-sex marriage. When the Iowa Constitution went into effect in 1857, it would be eleven years before the 14th amendment added the concept of equal protection to the US Constitution. *Equal Before The Law* then describes the more recent background leading up to the 2009 decision.

But what makes the book a compelling story is how it acquaints the reader with those actually involved in the case: the same sex couples who brought suit, the judges who decided the cases, the lawyers who argued it and the politicians on both sides of the issue.

Close attention is given to the Supreme Court justices who made the historic ruling. Their personal histories and personalities are conveyed in detail based on repeated interviews. Bob Van Der Plaats, the conservative politician who campaigned against same-sex marriage, gets a similar treatment. In all cases,

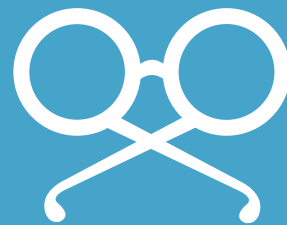
the various people involved in the legal battle and its aftermath are described in sympathetic and fact-based terms.

It's clear from the start that Witosky and Hansen sympathize with the same-sex couples on the issue of equal marriage rights. They do not appear in the story—there's nary an 'I' to be found—but their affection



**LOVE WINS** | Witosky and Hansen's narrative nonfiction chronicles Iowa's fight for LGBT rights. Image via University of Iowa Press.

character and as an example of the important role same-sex couples' children played with regard to the arguments presented to the





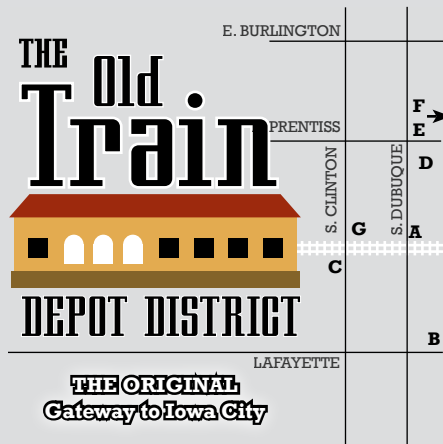
for the plaintiff couples and their children is palpable. They relish the occasional flashes of humor, like McKinley BarbouRoske's attempt to influence the Chief Justice with a Jedi Mind trick during oral arguments.

While the book has an unmistakable point of view, the emphasis on old-fashioned reporting gives it persuasive weight. The authors spoke at length with the people at the center of the case, and undoubtedly spent considerable time with experts on Iowa's judicial history. As befits a publication of the University of Iowa Press, the book has extensive footnotes, and should make for an invaluable resource among legal scholars.

**...the emphasis on old-fashioned reporting gives it persuasive weight.**

Above all, *Equal Before The Law* tells an amazing story—a legal drama that weaves in the stories of the real people who brought about this historic change in civil rights. The state of Iowa plays a crucial role in this tale as well, both as an abiding political entity and in the character of its citizens throughout the last 150 years. The book gives the reader—especially Iowans—a new appreciation of the state motto, writ large on the state flag: “Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain.” **IV**

*Kent Williams lives & writes in JoCo, which is like SpoCo, but not as full of bros.*





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**3:30 PM** *Auction Insider: The John Zimmer Collection* ★ with *Black Hawk's Final Resting Place* ★ and short film *Lennis Moore: Woodcut Print Artist*  
**5:15 PM** *Truth has Fallen* with short film *Standing Water*  
**7:00 PM** *The David Dance* ★ with short film *Tom in America*

### THE ENGLERT THEATRE

**6:15 PM** *Summer Solstice* with short film *Charlie and Hope*  
**8:15 PM** *Listening* with short film *I've Just Had a Dream*  
**10:30 PM** *The Grace of Jake*

## SATURDAY AUGUST 15

IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY ROOM A

**10:45 AM** *Saturday Morning Cartoons!* 9 animation shorts (ages 12+)  
**12:30 PM** *Student Showcase* (selection of

7 short films) ★

**2:00 PM** *Of Minor Prophets* with short film *Any Kid Anywhere: Sex Trafficking Survivor Stories* ★  
**4:00 PM** *Mount Lawrence* ★  
**6:00 PM** *Stage Four: A Love Story* ★ with short film *It Hit Upon the Roof*

### THE ENGLERT THEATRE

**12:15 PM** *Maiko: Dancing Child* with short film *Greenland*  
**2:00 PM** *Dramatic Shorts Block* (selection of 7 short films) ★  
**3:45 PM** *Dark Comedy Shorts* (selection of 4 short films) ★ Proceeds of this screening go to Hardacre Theater Preservation Association  
**5:45 PM** *Wildlike*  
**8:00 PM** *Movie Star: The Secret Lives of Jean Seberg* ★  
**10:15 PM** *Dora or the Sexual Neuroses of Our Parents* with short film *I-O*

## SUNDAY AUGUST 16

IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY ROOM A

**12:15 PM** *The Gospel According to Charlie* ★ with *Unmappable*  
**2:00 PM** *Eat White Dirt* ★ with short film *The Silly Bastard Next to the Bed*  
**3:15 PM** *Sons of Jacob Synagogue*  
**4:30 PM** *Girl on the Edge* with short film *Charlotte*

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**INTERVIEW:  
SHARKMUFFIN  
PG. 26**

**SCREAMING  
FEMALES  
PG. 30**

**STEVE EARLE  
AND THE DUKES  
PG. 34**

## JUMP THE SHARK

Guitarist Tarra Thiessen of Sharkmuffin dishes about her favorite guitars and the band's writing style • BY KATHRYN MUSILEK

Image via "Mermaid Sex Slave" music video



I had the pleasure of chatting with guitarist Tarra Thiessen of the Brooklyn-based band Sharkmuffin in anticipation of their show at Gabe's on August 17, which happens to be drummer Sharif Mekawy's birthday. ("He's turning 30 in Iowa!" Thiessen said.) When we spoke, she was "on a farm in the middle of nowhere" and I was in my Brooklyn, NY home. I'm a musician and business-owner, born and raised Iowan and have been based of NYC for close to 10 years, so it's always refreshing and heart-warming to get outsiders' take on Iowa when I'm far from home. Sharkmuffin last played Iowa City in March, 2015. "We were the only band and it was like a Tuesday or something," Thiessen said. "A lot of people came out and we had a really great time. I'm excited to be back."

Iowa City should be excited, too. Sharkmuffin is a force to be reckoned with. In a world of bleep-bloops and insta-boppers, Thiessen's band makes me believe in guitars again. They write in a way that commands attention and seethes contagious confidence. It's music that makes its listeners feel tough. Or cool. Or tough and cool. Sharkmuffin's upcoming album is called Chartreuse, and it's out August 7. In this correspondent's humble opinion, it's one of the best records to come out in 2015 so far.

Thiessen and I talked about guitars, other bands and Sharkmuffin's song-writing process among other things. Here's what we didn't talk about: what it's like to be a female human person who knows how to play instruments, because fuck that tired shit.

## A-LIST

### SHARKMUFFIN

BROOKLYN, NY

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

Gabe's (330 E Washington St.)

[www.icgabes.com](http://www.icgabes.com)

Sharkmuffin seems like the soundbaby of several great bands. And while I can definitely hear the influence of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Breeders and Hole, a crap-ton of Zeppelin, White Stripes, big Replacements reverb and surf rock also comes through their music. Don't you agree, Tarra? I love the White Stripes, and Led Zeppelin, surf rock bands like the Ventures and Dick Dale and Link Ray. I actually had a Ventures CD stuck in the Jeep Wrangler I was driving for a year or so, so it was either the Ventures or the radio. I was constantly singing along to guitar solos in the car, which was actually really good for me! And I remember when I first started the band, I just wanted to be able to sing like Kim Deal. I love the Breeders.

**That follows! Where are you based? I see you met Natalie (her co-writer and main collaborator in the band) on the Jersey shore.** The drummer and I live in Williamsburg Brooklyn, and our bassist lives in Chelsea.

**Sharkmuffin's tone is awesome. What kind of guitars and amps do you play? Are you a pedal person or more into the amps doing the work?** I love Death By Audio pedals. Oliver, Matt and Travis build the pedals

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there and they sound great. I also use Fender 1966 Pro Reverb, and have been touring with my Fender Jaguar and I have a Danelectro 12-string which sounds really awesome. But I have, like, 9 guitars. When we recorded our

## "I remember when I first started the band, I just wanted to be able to sing like Kim Deal."

new record, I mainly used the Jaguar and then a lot of other random stuff that was lying around. But I love my Jag. It's my favorite for sure.

**How do you write songs? Does one person write a song and bring it to the band or do**

**you kind of freedom jam songs into existence?** A lot of times I bring something in and then Natalie [Kirch] writes something to it, or Natalie comes up with something and I write something over the bass line. On other songs

I was just, like, brutally pissed at some dude and [Natalie] and [Sharif] were playing and I was in the other room, and I just came in and started yelling. Then "Ten Times"—which was on our last record and was a weird hard core

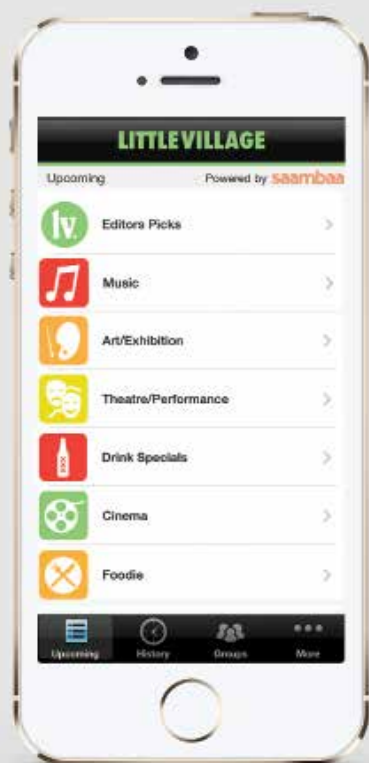
jam—was just like a joke because we asked what time it was and our drummer just started doing some blast beats and we happened to be recording. Sometimes I'll even have just a melody and we'll write something along to that too.

**You guys play like a collaborative band, not like a front person with a backing band.**

Yeah, we've had a lot of different drummers and I think that's what's kept it fresh: to get friends to sub in and get all these different drummers' takes on our songs.

**Do you tour pretty extensively?** Our bass player was a pre-K teacher and this is the first years she's taking off. She's taking a one-year sabbatical so we can tour a lot more. But, before that, [her] spring break would always line up with SXSW, so for the past three years we would go down to Austin, and because she had summers off we toured then, too. We did a tour with Dubstar and we did some Warped tour dates. We're hopefully going to tour more. We're releasing the record August 7 and then we're going out again until the 27th. We might go to Canada, and then we'll try to write more and maybe go to Europe. **lv**

*Kathryn Musilek was born and raised in Iowa and received her BA in Cinema and Comparative Literature at the University of Iowa. She lives in Brooklyn, NY and fronts the band Nevada Nevada.*



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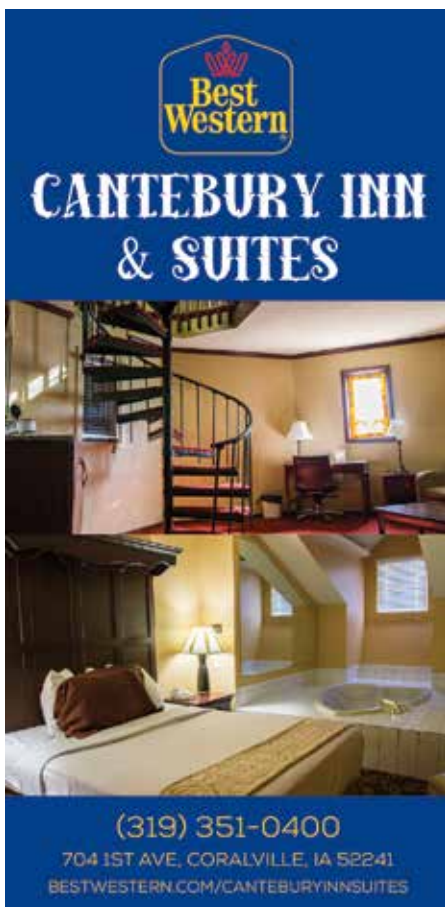


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## EDITORS' PICKS

**Are you planning an event?** Submit event info to [calendar@littlevillagemag.com](mailto:calendar@littlevillagemag.com). Include event name, date, time, venue, street address, admission price and a brief description (no all-caps, exclamation points or advertising verbiage, please). To find more events, visit [littlevillagemag.com/calendar](http://littlevillagemag.com/calendar).



### WED., JULY 29

**/MUSIC:** *Curse of Cassandra, Gabe's, Free, 9 p.m.* *Curse of Cassandra* uses haunting sounds to create a unique electro-witch-dance vibe.



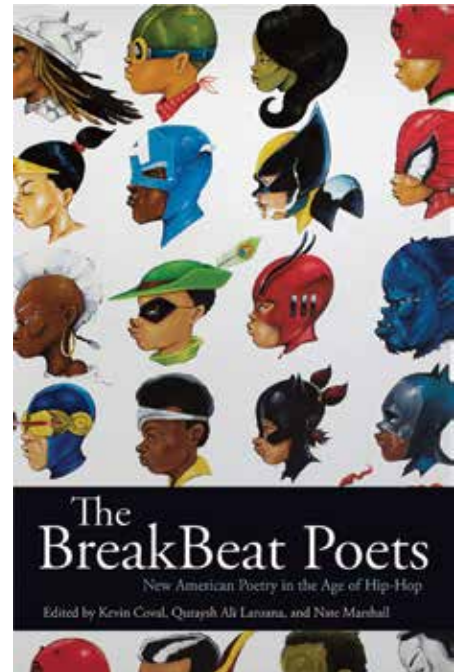
**/ARTS-AND-EXHIBITION:** *Midwest Summer: Light and Warmth, Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, Free, 12 p.m.* Support and enjoy recent work by local artists.

**/CINEMA:** *Mr. Holmes, FilmScene, \$6.50 - 5:30, 8 p.m.*

**/LITERATURE:** *Alan Guebert Prairie Lights, Free, 7 p.m.* Agricultural columnist Alan Guebert will read from his recent book, *The Land of Milk and Uncle Honey*.

**/FOODIE:** *Introduction to Third Wave Coffee, Public Space ONE, \$15-25, 4 p.m.* Noel Nissen of *Waterstreet Coffee Bar* will discuss coffee types and give out samples.

**Movie Night: Frozen, Backpacket Brewing, Free, Call for movie times** *The inspiration for millions of Halloween costumes worldwide, Frozen is a family favorite. Relax in Backpacket's beer garden while watching the cult classic. (Weather permitting)*



**/LITERATURE:** *Kevin Coval, Prairie Lights, Free, 7 p.m.* Kevin Coval is the "voice of the new Chicago," says the *Chicago Tribune*. He will read from *The BreakBeat Poets: New American Poetry in the Age of Hip-Hop*.

### THURS., JULY 30

**/MUSIC:** *Open Mic., Mendoza Wine Bar, 7 p.m.* Sing a tune in a warm, comfy atmosphere while tasting delicious wines.

**Jumbies, Iowa City Yacht Club, \$5, 9:30 p.m.** Check out the *Jumbies* and Dan DiMonte at Yacht Club.



**/CINEMA:** *Mr. Holmes (pictured), FilmScene, \$6.50 - 6 p.m.* *Mr. Holmes* (Ian McKellen) returns to Japan and finds himself investigating a mystery from his past.

### FRI., JULY 31

**/MUSIC:** *Summer of the Arts: Aaron Kamm & the One Drops, Weather Dance Fountain Stage, Iowa City downtown Ped Mall, Free, 6:30 p.m.* Aaron Kamm & the One Drops are a unique "high-energy" Reggae band you won't want to miss.

**Rickie Lee Jones, The Englert Theatre, \$35, 8 p.m.** The two-time Grammy winning musician known for confessional songwriting promises a night of amazing jazz and rock.



AUG 28

# SHARON JONES & THE DAP-KINGS IOWA SOUL FESTIVAL

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**JULY 30** **Kevin Burt**  
7pm (solo)

**JULY 31** **Steve Grismore Trio**  
8pm (jazz)

**AUG 1** **Charlie Hayes**  
& **Detroit Larry**  
8pm (blues)

**AUG 7** **Matt Panek**  
& **Electric Kool-Aid**  
8pm (blues/rock)

**AUG 8** **Blues Rock-it**  
8pm (blues)

**AUG 14** **Tallan Latz Band**  
8pm (rock/blues)

**AUG 21** **The Mayflies**  
8pm (rock/folk)

**AUG 22** **Dave Weld & Flames**  
8pm (blues)

**AUG 28** **Tomcat Music**  
8pm (blues)

**AUG 29** **Rising Lion**  
8pm (reggae)

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## EDITORS' PICKS

### SAT., AUG 1



**/COMMUNITY:** Blueberry Bonanza, Wilson's Apple Orchard, August 1 - 2, 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. The orchard will be celebrating the start of their 2015 season. Walk around and pick up some fresh blueberries!

### SUN., AUG 2



**/MUSIC:** Screaming Females (pictured), The Mill, \$10-12, 8 p.m. Let loose and rock out to the beloved alternative punk band.

**/COMMUNITY:** Just Tri: Youth Triathlon, North Liberty Aquatic Center, 7 a.m., \$25-30 Children of all ages are encouraged to participate in a swim-bike-run triathlon.

**Blueberry Bonanza, Wilson's Apple Orchard, 10 a.m.- 6 p.m.** Continue the celebration of the 2015 season at Wilson's Apple Orchard.

**Free Writing Class, Coralville Public Library, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Free** Participants will focus on fiction writing while learning how to develop their writing voice. Ages 14+ **Stay, Sit, R.E.A.D. with Therapy Dogs, Iowa City Public Library, 2-4 p.m.** Read aloud to trained—and adorable—therapy dogs at the ICPL.

### MON., AUG 3

**/COMMUNITY:** Coralville Farmers Market, Aquatic Center parking lot, 5-7 p.m. Sweet corn is in season at the Coralville Farmers Market, where the Feralings will provide live music.

### TUES., AUG 4

**/MUSIC:** Holly Miranda, The Mill, \$10, 9 p.m. Holly Miranda balances the earthy and ethereal with her soulful songs. Pitchfork gives her last album a 7.4!



**/ARTS-AND-EXHIBITION:** New Work From Elizabeth Shiver (pictured), Chait Galleries Downtown, 10 a.m. An exhibit of Elizabeth Shiver's ceramic structures and pottery will be presented.

**/FOODIE:** IC Drinking Liberally, Devotay, 5:30 p.m. Fine wine, craft beer, and classic cocktails will flow at this



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## BEST OF I.C.

excellent free event.

**Brix Summer School Wine Class, Brix, \$40, 6-8 p.m.** An evening of educational wine tasting offering 6 different types of wine and a themed snacks.

### WEDS., AUG 5

**/SPORTS:** Kernels Baseball: Superhero Theme, Veterans Memorial Stadium, 6:35 p.m. Mothers and sons are invited to dress up as superheros and enjoy the post-game fireworks at this themed Kernels Baseball game.

### THURS., AUG 6

**/COMMUNITY:** Party in the Park!, Highland Park, 6:30-8p.m. Everyone is welcomed for a free evening of live music, games, arts and crafts at Highland Park.

**Gems of Hope Workshop, Beadology, 6-7 p.m.** Support cancer patients by making earrings and cards for distribution at local hospitals.

**Rotary Blood Drive, Iowa City Public Library, 4-7 p.m.** Save a life! Donate blood at the Rotary Blood Drive (sponsored by DeGowin Blood Center).

**/MUSIC:** Flatland Harmony Experience, Iowa City Yacht Club, \$5, 9:30 p.m. Spend the evening listening to Flatland Harmony Experience, a three-piece harmony band from Indianapolis, Indiana.

### FRI., AUG 7

**/MUSIC:** Berner, Blue Moose Tap House, \$12-15, 6:30 p.m. Hip-hop up-and-comer Berner has worked with Wiz Khalifa and Snoop Dogg. Demrick and J-Hornay to open.

**Strange Americans, Iowa City Yacht Club, \$7, 9:30 p.m.**

**/CINEMA:** Movie Night: *Finding Nemo*, Backpacket Brewing, Free, Call for movie times Chill out on Backpacket's patio while enjoying a beer with Dory and Marlin. (Weather permitting)

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## EDITORS' PICKS



National Theatre Live Presents:

### EVERYMAN: LIVE SCREENING

The Englert, Saturday August 8

## FRI., AUG 7

**/FOODIE:** Free @rt School: Ice Cream, Public Space ONE, Free, 6 p.m. Attendees will make ice cream to bring home or eat right away! All ages welcome.

**/COMMUNITY:** Midnight in the Garden, Bread Garden, 9:30 p.m. - 12 a.m. Come for the free performance by Ryan Smith, stay for the beer and wine.

**Social Dancing, Old Brick, \$4-8, 7:30- 10:45 p.m.** You'll be ready to two-step the night away after this ballroom dancing lesson for all ages and skill levels.

**Friends of the Coralville Library Book Sale, Coralville Public Library, 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.** Coralville Public Library offers great deals on a broad range of books!

**/SPORTS:** Kernels Baseball: Photo Giveaway, Veterans Memorial Stadium, 6:35 p.m. Be one of the first 1,000 fans at the gates to receive a free bobblehead and Kernels team photo.

## SAT., AUG 8

**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** Everyman: Live Screening (pictured above), The Englert, \$15-18, 2 p.m. The 15th Century English play follows a man (BAFTA winner and Academy Award nominee Chiwetel Ejiofor) as he races to escape Death before time runs out.

**/MUSIC:** NewBo Music Festival, NewBo City Market, 2 p.m. Young the Giant and others will play the outdoor music festival in Cedar Rapids.

**/COMMUNITY:** SunSet Salsa, Pedmall Iowa City, 6-10 p.m. Grab a partner and swing your hips to live, outdoor music in downtown Iowa City.

**Back Road Half Marathon & 5K, Millstream Brewery, \$40, 7 a.m.** Take in the Amana Colonies' scenic views during the half marathon and reward yourself at race's end with a cold beer from Millstream Brewery.

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## BEST OF I.C.

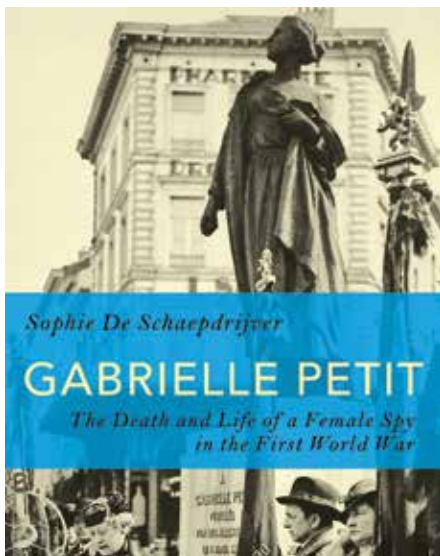
**Beer & Brat Festival, Millstream Brewery, 5-8 p.m.** Come out to Millstream Brewery for live music from Holiday Road and wash down scrumptious brats with delicious beer.

**Children's Tumor Foundation Walk, Terry Trueblood Reserve Area, 8:30- 1 p.m.** Run or walk this 8.5k in a superhero costume to raise awareness for neurofibromatosis.

**/FOODIE:** Medieval Medicinals, Public Space ONE, \$15-25, 1 p.m. Stephany Hoffelt will recreate Medieval recipes.

**/SPORTS:** Kernels Baseball: Jimmy Buffet Night, Veterans Memorial Stadium, 5:05 p.m. Dress up in hawaiian shirts and flip flops to celebrate Jimmy Buffet Night! Hang around after the game for a Compass Rose Band concert and fireworks.

**SUN., AUG 9**



**/LITERATURE:** Herbert Hoover Library Presents: Dr. Sophie De Schaepdrijver, Hoover Auditorium, \$10-15, 2 p.m. Listen to Dr. Sophie De Schaepdrijver, a social and cultural historian from Europe, talk about her most recent publication, *Gabrielle Petit: The Death of a Female Spy in the First World War* (pictured).



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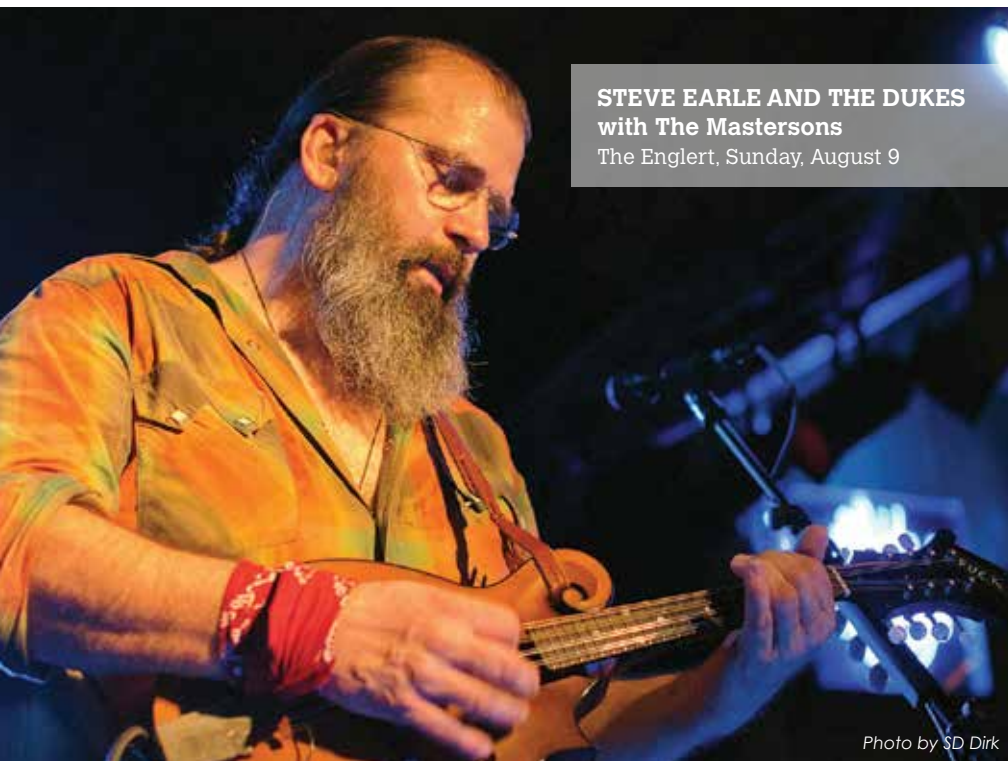
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**STEVE EARLE AND THE DUKES**  
with The Mastersons  
The Englert, Sunday, August 9

Photo by SD Dirk

## SUN., AUG 9

**/MUSIC:** Steve Earle and The Dukes (pictured), Englert Theatre, \$35, 7-9 p.m. *Legendary Americana singer-songwriter Steve Earle is back for another stunning tour at the Englert. Special guests The Mastersons to open.*  
**/COMMUNITY:** Sunday Funday, Iowa City Public Library, 2-4 p.m. *Who said Sundays have to be boring? Bring the family to the Iowa City Public Library for a few hours of fun activities!*

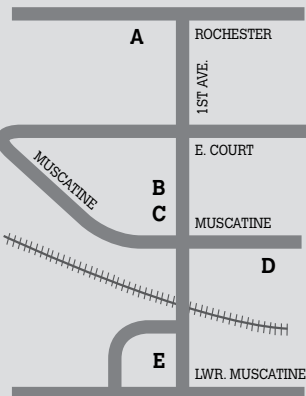
## MON., AUG. 10

**/COMMUNITY:** Catacombs of Comedy, Iowa City Yacht Club, \$3, 9:30 p.m. *Laugh with local comedians while tossing back a drink (or two).*

## TUES., AUG. 11

**/COMMUNITY:** Beer and Books, The Mill, 5 p.m. *Drinks and conversation! What more could you ask for?*

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## LANDLOCKED FILM FEST

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

#### IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY ROOM A

**3:30 PM** Auction Insider: The John Zimmer Collection with Black Hawk's Final Resting Place and short film Lennis Moore: Woodcut Print Artist

**5:15 PM** Truth has Fallen with short film Standing Water

**7:00 PM** The David Dance with short film Tom in America

#### THE ENGLERT THEATRE

**6:15 PM** Summer Solstice with short film Charlie and Hope

**8:15 PM** Listening with short film I've Just Had a Dream

**10:30 PM** The Grace of Jake

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

#### IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY ROOM A

**10:45 AM** Saturday Morning Cartoons!

**12:30 PM** Student Showcase

**2:00 PM** Of Minor Prophets with short film Any Kid Anywhere: Sex Trafficking Survivor Stories

**4:00 PM** Mount Lawrence

**6:00 PM** Stage Four: A Love Story with short film It Hit Upon the Roof

#### THE ENGLERT THEATRE

**12:15 PM** Maiko: Dancing Child with short film Greenland

**2:00 PM** Dramatic Shorts Block

**3:45 PM** Dark Comedy Shorts

**5:45 PM** Wildlike

**8:00 PM** Movie Star: The Secret Lives of Jean Seberg

**10:15 PM** Dora or the Sexual Neuroses of Our Parents with short film 1-0

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

#### IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY ROOM A

**12:15 PM** The Gospel According to Charlie with Unmappable

**2:00 PM** Eat White Dirt with short film The Silly Bastard Next to the Bed

**3:15 PM** Sons of Jacob Synagogue

**4:30 PM** Girl on the Edge with short film Charlotte

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**/MUSIC:** Eric Taylor and Nathan Bell, The Mill, \$12-15, 10 p.m. Folk singer-songwriter and poetic lyricist Eric Taylor takes the stage at The Mill. Nathan Bell to open.

## WED., AUG. 12

**/MUSIC:** Burlington Street Bluegrass Band, The Mill, \$5, 7 p.m. The house band includes bluegrass heavyweights Al Murphy, Bob Black, Dale Thomas, Joe Petersen and others.

## THURS., AUG. 13

**/MUSIC:** Kevin BF Burt, Riverside Casino and Resort, 7 p.m. Catch this Kevin Burt performance for high-summer low-down blues.

Ernie Peniston, Riverside Casino and Resort, 7:30 p.m. Ernie Peniston praises a night of rockin' blues for concert-goers to dance and sing along to.



**/CINEMA:** Movie Night: Wall-E, Backpocket Brewing, Free, Call for movie times Bring the kids and watch Wall-E and Eva fall in love in Backpocket's beautiful beer garden. (Weather permitting)

## FRI., AUG. 14

**/MUSIC:** PlanetRawk, Gabe's, \$10, 9 p.m. Metal band PlanetRawk will melt your face off (in a good way).

**/COMMUNITY:** Midnight in the Garden, Bread Garden, Free, 9:30 p.m. - 12 a.m. Music by blues and jazz musician Sam Salamone. Patio, food and drinks by Bread Garden.

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## SAT., AUG. 15



**/MUSIC:** Sean Costanza Band (pictured), The Mill, \$8, 8 p.m. The Sean Costanza Band will perform songs from their latest album, *Here in the Light*. Cedar County Cobras and Ben Schmidt to open.

**The Ultrasounds**, Iowa City Yacht Club, \$5, 9:30 p.m. The Ultrasounds, a retro-styled indie rock band, will take the stage at the Iowa City Yacht Club.

**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** Peter Pan, Coralville Center of the Performing Arts, August 15 - 17, \$22-28, 7:30 p.m. Nolte Academy brings the quinessential "boy who didn't want to grow up" to the stage. Check website for performance times on Saturday and Sunday.

## SUN., AUG. 16

**/MUSIC:** Noah Guthrie and Gabe Dixon, Blue Moose Tap House, \$10-15, 6 p.m. Noah Guthrie is known for his famous covers and soothing voice. Gabe Dixon to open.

## MON., AUG. 17

**/COMMUNITY:** Lyrics Alive, Johnson County Senior Center, 1:30- 2:30 p.m. Join fellow music-lovers in a relaxed, welcoming environment as they sing popular American music.

## TUES., AUG. 18

**/COMMUNITY:** Grubs & Suds Culture Walk, National Czech and Slovak Museum, \$9-10, 6-8 p.m. Take a walking tour of Cedar Rapids' historic Czech Village. Appetizers and discussion to follow!

**/FOODIE:** Easy Vegan Soul Food, Public Space ONE, \$15-25, 5 p.m. Learn the intricacies of Southern-style vegan soul food with Andrea Ford.



## ONGOING EVENTS

## MONDAYS

**Coralville Farmers Market**, Coralville Community Aquatic Center Parking Lot, 5 p.m.

**Open Mic**, The Mill, Free, 8 p.m.

**Catacombs of Comedy**, Yacht Club, \$3, 10 p.m.

## TUESDAYS

**Cribbage**, Moline Township Center, 1:00 p.m. (See Website for prices)

**Underground Open Mic**, The Yacht Club, Free, 8 p.m.

**Open Mic Night**, Studio 13, Free, 9:00 p.m. (19+ event)

## WEDNESDAYS

**Iowa City Open Coffee**, Thinc Lab, Free, 8 a.m.

**Iowa City Farmers Market**, Chauncy Swan Ramp, 5 p.m.

**Honest Open Mic**, Lincoln Wine Bar, 6 p.m.

**Open Mic Night**, Penguins Comedy Club, Free, 6:30 p.m.

**Open Jam and Mug Night**, Yacht Club, Free, 10 p.m.

## THURSDAYS

**Country Line Dancing**, Wildwood Smokehouse & Saloon, Free, 6:30

**Throw Back Thursday**, The Union Bar, Free, 8:00 p.m.

**Karaoke Thursday**, Studio 13, Free, 8:00 p.m.

**Locally Owned**, Gabe's, Free, 9 p.m.

## FRIDAYS

**Friday Night Concert Series**, University of Iowa Pentacrest, 6:30 p.m.

**FAC Dance Party**, The Union Bar, See website for price, 7 p.m.

## SATURDAYS

**\*Cedar Rapids Downtown Farmers Market**, Downtown Cedar Rapids, 7:30 a.m.\* (1st & 3rd weeks)

**Iowa City Farmers Market**, Chauncy Swan Ramp, 7:30 a.m.

**Family Storytime**, Iowa City Public Library, Free, 10:30 a.m.

**Elation Dance Party**, Studio 13, Free, 10:30 p.m.

## SUNDAYS

**North Liberty Farmers Market**, Pacha Parkway, 11 a.m.

**Live Music**, Sutliff Cider Company, 3 p.m.

**Open Mic**, The General Store Pub, Stone City, 4 p.m.

**Pub Quiz**, The Mill, \$1, 9 p.m.

**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** Sheer Madness, Old Creamery, Check website for pricing, (Through August 16)  
**Giving Tree Theatre**, Giving Tree Theatre, Check website for pricing, (Through August 9)

**/ARTS-AND-EXHIBITION:** Midwest Summer: Light and Warmth, Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, Free, (Through September 13) **Sanstress Open**, Public Space ONE, (Through August 16) Dilip Reshmi, CSPS, (Through August 30) Donations go towards the rebuilding of Nepal.



AUG 22

# DRAWING CLOSER

CELEBRATING HANCHER'S UPCOMING OPENING  
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Gather up your friends and family, and join us for a day of chalk art and music as we look forward to the opening of the new Hancher facility in the fall of 2016. **Squonk Opera** will be on hand to perform *Pneumatica*, an event about air, made of air, and powered by air.

Full details at the Hancher website: <http://hancher.uiowa.edu>.

***Pneumatica* performance times:**

11:30 am - 12 noon

1 - 1:30 pm followed by a STEAM workshop

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**WHIRLPOOL WITH RON MILES AT THE ENGLERT** Friday, July 3, 2015. Photo by Adam Burke

## IOWA CITY

**Blue Moose Tap House** 211 Iowa Ave, (319) 358-9206, [bluemooseic.com](http://bluemooseic.com)

**Chait Galleries Downtown** 218 E Washington St, (319) 338-4442, [thegalleriesdowntown.com](http://thegalleriesdowntown.com)

**Englert Theatre** 221 E Washington St, (319) 688-2653, [englert.org](http://englert.org)

**FilmScene** 118 E College St, (319) 358-2555, [icfilmscene.org](http://icfilmscene.org)

**First Avenue Club**, 1550 S 1st Ave, (319) 337-5527, [firstavenueclub.com](http://firstavenueclub.com)

**Gabe's** 330 E Washington St, (319) 351-9175, [icgabes.com](http://icgabes.com)

**Iowa Artisans' Gallery** 207 E. Washington St, (319) 351-8686, [iowa-artisans-gallery.com](http://iowa-artisans-gallery.com)

**Iowa City Community Theatre** 4261 Oak Crest Hill Rd SE, (319) 338-0443, [iowacitycommunitytheatre.com](http://iowacitycommunitytheatre.com)

**Iowa Memorial Union** 125 N Madison St, (319) 335-3041, [imu.uiowa.edu](http://imu.uiowa.edu)

**Lasansky Corporation Gallery** 216 E Washington St, (319) 337-9336, [lasanskyart.com](http://lasanskyart.com)

**M.C. Ginsberg Objects of Art** 110 E Washington St, (319) 351-1700, [mcginsberg.com](http://mcginsberg.com)

**Old Capitol Museum** 21 N Clinton St, (319) 335-0548, [uiowa.edu/oldcap](http://uiowa.edu/oldcap)

**Prairie Lights Bookstore** 15 S Dubuque St, (319) 337-2681, [prairielights.com](http://prairielights.com)

**Public Space One** 120 N Dubuque St, (319) 331-8893, [publicspaceone.com](http://publicspaceone.com)

**Riverside Theatre** 213 N. Gilbert Street, Iowa City [riverside-theatre.org](http://riverside-theatre.org)

**Steven Vail Fine Arts** 118 E College St, (319) 248-9443 [stevenvail.com](http://stevenvail.com)

**The Mill** 120 E Burlington St, (319) 351-9529, [icmill.com](http://icmill.com)

**Trumpet Blossom Cafe** 310 E Prentiss St, (319) 248-0077, [trumpetblossom.com](http://trumpetblossom.com)

**University of Iowa Museum of Art** 1375 Iowa 1, (319) 335-1727, [uima.uiowa.edu](http://uima.uiowa.edu)

**University of Iowa Museum of Natural History** 17 N Clinton

St, (319) 335-0480, [uiowa.edu/mnh](http://uiowa.edu/mnh)

**Uptown Bill's** 730 S Dubuque St, (319) 339-0804, [uptownbills.org](http://uptownbills.org)

**Wildwood Smokehouse & Saloon** 4919 Dolphin Dr SE, (319) 338-2211, [wildwoodsaloon.com](http://wildwoodsaloon.com)

**Yacht Club** 13 S Linn St, (319) 337-6464, [iowacityyachtclub.com](http://iowacityyachtclub.com)

## CEDAR RAPIDS

**African American Museum of Iowa**, 55 12th Ave SE, (319) 862-2101, [blackiowa.org](http://blackiowa.org)

**Brucemore Mansion** 2160 Linden Dr SE, (319) 362-7375, [brucemore.org](http://brucemore.org)

**Cedar Rapids Museum of Art**, 410 Third Avenue SE, (319) 366-7503, [crma.org](http://crma.org)

**Cocktails and Company**, 1625 Blairs Ferry Rd, Marion, IA, (319) 377-1140, [cocktails-company.com](http://cocktails-company.com)

**Daniel Arthur's** 821 3rd Ave SE, (319) 362-9340, [danielarthurs.net](http://danielarthurs.net)

**Giving Tree Theatre**, 752 10th St, Marion, IA, (319) 213-7956, [givingtreetheater.com](http://givingtreetheater.com)

**Hawkeye Downs Speedway and Fairgrounds** 4400 6th St SW, (319) 365-8656, [hawkeyedownsspeedway.com](http://hawkeyedownsspeedway.com)

**JM O'Malley's** 1502 H Ave NE, (319) 369-9433

**Legion Arts CSPPS Hall** 1103 3rd St SE, (319) 364-1580, [legionarts.org](http://legionarts.org)

**Lion Bridge Brewing Company**, 59 16th Ave SW, (319) 200-4460, [lionbridgebrewing.com](http://lionbridgebrewing.com)

**Little Bohemia** 1317 3rd St SE, (319) 366-6262

**Mahoney's** 1602 E Ave NE, (319) 364-5754

**McGrath Amphitheatre** 475 1st St SW, (319) 286-5760, [mcgrathamphitheatre.com](http://mcgrathamphitheatre.com)

**National Czech and Slovak Museum** 1400 Inspiration Place SW, [ncsml.org](http://ncsml.org)

**Opus Concert Cafe** 119 Third Ave SE, (319) 366-8203, [orchestraiowa.org](http://orchestraiowa.org)

**Paramount Theatre** 123 3rd Ave SE, (319) 398-5211, [paramounttheatreocr.com](http://paramounttheatreocr.com)

**Parlor City Pub & Eatery** 1125 3rd St SE, (319) 247-0000, [parlorcitypub.com](http://parlorcitypub.com)

**Penguin's Comedy Club** 208 2nd Ave SE, (319) 362-8133, [penguinscomedyclub.com](http://penguinscomedyclub.com)

**Q Dogs BBQ**, 895 Blairs Ferry Rd, Marion, IA, (319) 826-6667, [qdogsbbqcompany.com](http://qdogsbbqcompany.com)

**Shores Event Center** 700 16th St NE, (319) 775-5367, [shoreseventcenter.com](http://shoreseventcenter.com)

**Sip N Stir** 1119 1st Ave SE, Cedar Rapids., (319) 364-3163, [sipnstir.com](http://sipnstir.com)

**Tailgators** 3969 Center Point Rd NE, (319) 393-6621, [tailgatorslive.com](http://tailgatorslive.com)

**US Cellular Center** 370 1st Avenue NE | (319) 398-5211, [uscellularcenter.com](http://uscellularcenter.com)

**Veterans Memorial Stadium** 950 Rockford Rd SW, (319) 363-3887

**Theatre Cedar Rapids** 102 3rd St SE, (319) 366-8591, [theatreocr.org](http://theatreocr.org)

## CORALVILLE

**Cafe Crema** 411 2nd St, (319) 338-0700, [facebook.com/caffecrema.us](http://facebook.com/caffecrema.us)

**Coralville Center for the Performing Arts**, 1900 Country Club Dr, (319) 248-9370, [coralvillearts.org](http://coralvillearts.org)

**Coralville Recreation Center** 1506 8th St , (319) 248-1750, [coralville.org](http://coralville.org)

**Iowa Children's Museum** 1451 Coral Ridge Ave, (319) 625-6255, [theicm.org](http://theicm.org)

**Mendoza Wine Bar** 1301 5th St, (319) 333-1291, [mendozawinebar.com](http://mendozawinebar.com)

## NORTH LIBERTY

**Bobber's Grill** 1850 Scales Bend Rd NE, (319) 665-3474, [bobbersongrill.com](http://bobbersongrill.com)

**Bobby's Live** 1295 Jordan St., North Liberty, [www.bobbyslive.com](http://www.bobbyslive.com)

## AMANA

**Iowa Theatre Artists Company**, 4709 220th Trail, Amana, (319) 622-3222, [iowatheatreartists.org](http://iowatheatreartists.org)

**Old Creamery Theatre**, 38th Ave, Amana, (319) 622-6262, [oldcreamery.com](http://oldcreamery.com)

**Old Creamery Theatre Studio Stage**, 3023 220th Trail, Middle Amana, (319) 622-6262, [oldcreamery.com](http://oldcreamery.com)

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**Isle of Capri Casino** 1777 Isle Parkway, Bettendorf, (563) 359-7280, [isleofcapricasinos.com](http://isleofcapricasinos.com)

**River Music Experience** 129 Main St, Davenport, (563) 326-1333, [rivermusicexperience.com](http://rivermusicexperience.com)

**iWireless Center** 1201 River Dr, Moline, (309) 764-2001, [iwirelesscenter.com](http://iwirelesscenter.com)

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**Codfish Hollow Barnstormers** 5013 288th Ave, [codfishhollowbarnstormers.com](http://codfishhollowbarnstormers.com)

## DUBUQUE

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**Diamond Jo Casino** 301 Bell St, (563) 690-4800, [diamondjodubuque.com](http://diamondjodubuque.com)

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**Ellen Kennedy Fine Arts Center** 505 Johnson St. NW, (563) 852-3432

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**Civic Center** 221 Walnut St (515) 246-2300, [desmoinesperformingarts.org](http://desmoinesperformingarts.org)

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## CRAFTY

## BROWN BAGGING IT

Spice up your lunchtime escapades with this homemade lunchbag project.



**STEP TWO** | Using the 1 x 5-inch strip with the wrong side up, press each long edge 1/4 inch towards the center of the strip, wrong sides touching (It will look like french doors). Fold down the center line and pin, so the folded edges touch and the raw edges of your fabric are tucked inward. Sew along the folded edges and trim to 2 3/4 inches.

## MATERIALS:

**1 YARD OF STURDY FABRIC**

**THREAD TO MATCH YOUR FABRIC**

**LARGE BUTTON**

**OTTER WAX (AVAILABLE AT OTTERWAX.COM)**

**D**ine in style: Dress up your lunchtime tote with this DIY project that'll place you solidly at the head of the popular table...and waterproof!



**STEP ONE** | Pre-wash and dry your fabric so your bag doesn't shrink. Iron it flat. Cut one length of fabric measuring 11 1/2 inches by 29 inches and another measuring 1 inch by 5 inches. The larger rectangle will be the body of the bag, and the small piece will become your button loop.



**STEP THREE** | On the larger rectangle, fold fabric in half lengthwise to find the middle and press to crease. Fold one short end of the rectangle down 1/2 inch, press and fold over again 1/2 inch. Slide the raw ends of the button loop under the fold and pin so the loop is centered on either side of the crease without twisting the fabric. Sew along the inner fold of the short edge of the rectangle to stitch the button loop in place and complete the hem. Repeat these steps on the second short edge without the button loop.



**STEP FOUR** | Fold the piece in half with the wrong sides touching by drawing the bottom hemmed edge up to meet the top hemmed edge. Pin together along the two long sides. With an overcast stitch to prevent fraying, sew both sides at 1/4 in seam allowance.

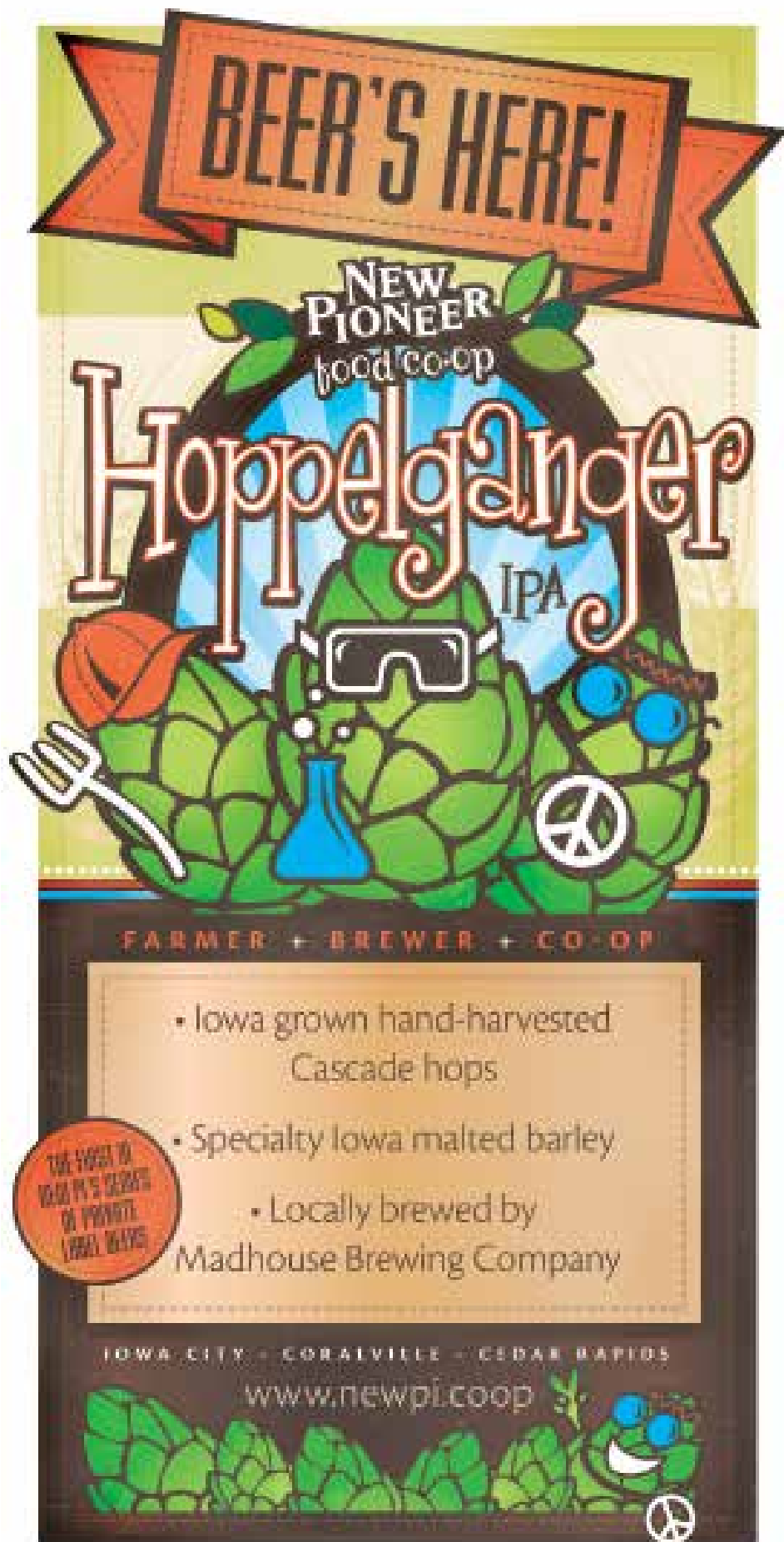
**STEP FIVE** | Once the two sides are stitched together, flip the bag over so the bottom of the bag is up. Separate the two layers of fabric away from each other and the corners so that the bottom of the bag forms a diamond and the bottom fold (red line) lines up with side seams (This feels like origami). Measure 1 3/4 inches down from each corner and make a line (green lines) at this point, which will be perpendicular to the bottom fold. Cut and sew along these lines.



**STEP SIX** | Coat the entire piece with Otter Wax. The friction of the bar against the fabric is usually enough to soften the wax and allow it to spread into the fabric. If you are having trouble getting the wax to absorb, you can use a hairdryer and rub in with your fingers. Allow the wax to cure for 24 hours before applying a second coat.

**STEP SEVEN** | On the side of the bag without the button loop, mark a spot 5 inches down from the top hem, centered from left to right. Sew your button here. I waited to sew on my button until after I had waxed the bag, so I didn't skip coating any parts. **lv**

—Frankie Schneckloth



## CURSES, FOILED AGAIN

Police who accused Alexander Katz, 19, of stealing a car in Logan, Utah, said he and his girlfriend had to abandon the vehicle and call a cab because he didn't know how to drive a stick shift. The car's owner spotted the vehicle being driven off and called police, who found Katz and his girlfriend waiting outside a nearby convenience store for their cab. Police Chief Gary Jensen said that although Katz couldn't drive a stick shift, his girlfriend could and was giving him directions while they tried making their getaway. "I'm not 100 percent certain why she doesn't just get around and get in the driver's seat so they can take the car and use it," Jensen said. (Atlanta Journal Constitution)

## ABLUTION SOLUTION

• Spas in Japan now offer ramen noodle baths. The baths are filled with ramen pork broth and synthetic noodles. Soaking in the broth is said to be good for the skin and to boost metabolism. "Lately people are very concerned about having beautiful skin, and they know the effect of collagen, which is contained in our pork-based broth," said Ichiro Furuya, owner of the Yunessan Spa House in Hakone. (Time)

• Azerbaijan's Naftalan Heath Center now offers oil baths, which the spa's doctor insisted cures up to 70 ailments. "Naftalan kills everything: viruses, bacteria and fungi. Its consistency is unique and pure. It does not contain any dirt," Dr. Hashim Hashimov said, adding that customers are allowed only 10 minutes in the tub before scraping down and showering off the sticky substance, which is then used for the next customer. "Usually we lose some material on each person, and every time we add material for each person. But to dump the whole thing is impossible, as the material is expensive." (International Business Times)

## PRIVATE JUSTICE

• The backlog of court cases in Florida is prompting people waiting for trials to turn to private judges. They promise speedy and private settlements, "not in open courtroom, where everyone and their brother is attending," said Robert Evans, a public judge for 20 years before he went private. "My marketing motto is: 'How would you like your trial tomorrow?'" Orange County Chief Judge Fred Lauten conceded that "private judging comes with a cost," pointing out that people who

"can't even afford an attorney ... they're not going to be able to afford a private judge." (Orlando's WKMG-TV)

• Los Angeles County authorities charged David Henry, Tonette Hayes and Brandon Kiel with impersonating police officers after the three showed up, two of them in uniform, as a "courtesy call" to inform sheriff's Capt. Roosevelt Johnson they were from the Masonic Fraternal Police Department and setting up operations in the area. The agency's website claims jurisdiction in 33 states and Mexico and, through the Knights Templar, traces the department's roots back 3,000 years. "When asked what is the difference between the Masonic Fraternal Police Department and other police departments, the answer is simple for us," the website says. "We were here first." Henry, 46, identifies himself as "Chief Henry 33," and the website refers to him as "Absolute Supreme Sovereign Grandmaster." Johnson said the purpose of the purported police department is unclear. (Los Angeles Times)

## SHORT FUSES

• Haden Smith, 18, demanded that his mother intervene to mend his relationship with his girlfriend and threatened to kill her chickens if she didn't.

Deputies in Limestone County, Ala., said Smith vowed he'd kill a chicken every 15 minutes and gave her a deadline of noon. When the deadline passed, he started sending her picture messages of each dead chicken. He got to six before deputies arrived and arrested him. (Tribune Media Wire)



• Tired of waiting at a hospital's emergency room in Morganton, N.C., Katlyn Milligan, 20, set off the sprinklers, resulting in "copious amounts of water" pouring down, according to the police report. Milligan, who was waiting for a relative to be treated, said that after two hours, she couldn't wait any longer, so she went into a bathroom and held her lighter to the sprinkler. Cleanup delayed ER operations another two hours "at the busiest time of the day," Nursing Administrator

David Everhart said. Milligan herself had to be taken to the ER to check for effects from exposure to the sprinkler's stagnant water. After she was released, police arrested her. (New York Daily News)

## ANCHORS AWAY

Canada's National Defence decided to decommission a 45-year-old navy supply ship without a replacement because mechanics in Halifax were spending a "disproportionate amount of time" keeping the vessel operating, according to official documents, by trying to locate spare parts, "some of which have been procured via eBay." The original manufacturers long ago stopped making the parts; some were reportedly "beyond acceptable limits" because corrosion was compromising structural integrity. The vessel, HCMS Preserver, had been scheduled for decommissioning but was kept afloat after the government canceled funding for its replacement in 2008. Building a new one will take at least eight years. (The Canadian Press)

## SIGN OF THE TIMES

Utah Valley University has designated a lane for texting on the stairs of its Student Life & Wellness Center. Two other dedicated lanes, distinguished by neon-green stripes, are for walkers and runners. Amy Grubbs, the school's director for campus recreation, acknowledged that not every texter sticks to the lane, noting some "don't even see it because they're so consumed in their phones." (ABC News)

## MATCHMAKERY

Iran has launched a state-supported match-making website. Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Mahmoud Golzari cautioned that "Find Your Equal" is not a dating site. Its goal is to produce 100,000 new marriages in the coming year. "We have high demand for marriage and 11 million [young single adults] who are increasing every day," Golzari said. Marriages are necessary to overcome Iran's declining birthrate, according to the government, which last year banned vasectomies and permanent birth control measures in women. Officials, including supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, have publicly urged couples to have more babies to repudiate "undesirable aspects of Western lifestyles." (The Washington Post) **IV**

*Compiled from mainstream news sources by Roland Sweet. Authentication on demand.*





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## HOW DO WE KNOW HOW TO PRONOUNCE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN?

*How do we know how to pronounce proper names in ancient Egyptian? I understand the Rosetta Stone gave us the ability to translate hieroglyphics, but how do we know two birds laying eggs is pronounced "Tutankhamun"?*  
—Dave K., Milford, Connecticut

**S**ome are now thinking: who *cares* how we know this? This is shallow. Fact is, David, we do know, more or less. And how we know is a fascinating tale.

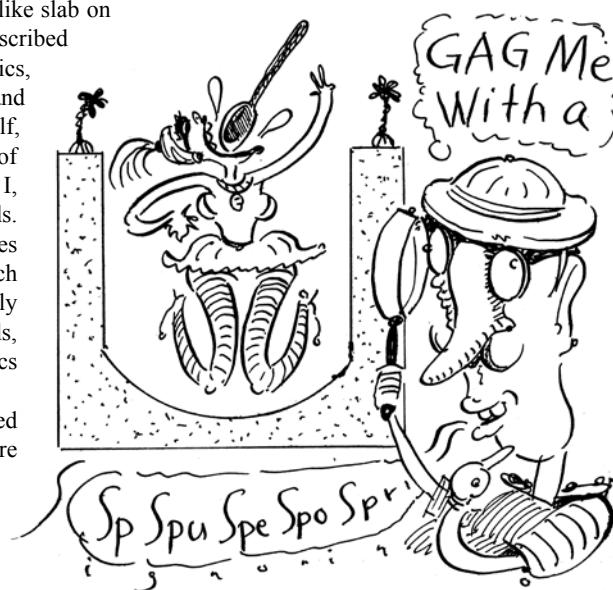
It won't surprise you to learn our knowledge of how to pronounce Egyptian hieroglyphics begins with the Rosetta Stone. Discovered in 1799, the stone is a black granite-like slab on which a decree by Ptolemy V is inscribed in three languages—hieroglyphics, what's now called demotic script, and ancient Greek. The message itself, issued in Memphis in 196 BC, is of little consequence. (Short version: I, Ptolemy V, have done great deeds. Worship me, dudes.) What makes the Rosetta Stone special is that each language conveys an essentially identical message. In other words, the Rosetta Stone is a hieroglyphics cheat sheet.

The two researchers who vied to translate the Rosetta Stone were the French linguist Jean-François Champollion and the English freelance genius Thomas Young. Young had the first breakthrough, discovering that demotic script was actually a cursive version of hieroglyphics. However, like everyone else at the time, he thought both hieroglyphs and demotic characters were ideographs—that is, each symbol represented a concept, as with the components of Chinese characters, rather than representing only a sound, as with the Latin alphabet. A string of glyphs like "bird-snake-man-river" was assumed to mean something, but no one thought you could pronounce it like a sequence of letters.

Young believed *some* hieroglyphs were phonetic—specifically, those used to spell out the names of foreign rulers. Hieroglyphs representing kings and queens were often enclosed in an oblong border called a cartouche, making them easy to spot. The glyphs representing Egyptian rulers' names were believed to be purely symbolic, not phonetic. But since

foreign names had no local equivalent, they could only be expressed phonetically, suggesting the glyph strings in those cartouches had to be pronounceable.

This proved to be the key to decoding. The Rosetta scripts encoded different languages. But proper names would presumably be



pronounced similarly regardless of language.

Young tried to assign phonetic values to the cartouche glyphs, but translated only six before giving up. The task fell to Champollion.

He made two breakthroughs. The first was comparing the demotic characters signifying Ptolemy on the Rosetta Stone to those representing Cleopatra in a separate example of demotic. He found characters corresponding to the Greek equivalents of *P*, *L*, *T*, *O*, and *E* in each name. In other words, demotic characters didn't just symbolize concepts; they spelled out how words were pronounced. (As you may have guessed, in Greek the *P* in *Ptolemy* isn't silent.)

Champollion's next brainstorm was more of a leap. First he identified the hieroglyphs corresponding to various demotic characters.

Then he took the hieroglyphs for Ptolemy on the Rosetta Stone and compared them to those on an obelisk, in a cartouche known to signify Cleopatra. Sure enough, he found the *P*, *L*, *T*, *O*, and *E* hieroglyphs exactly where he predicted. What about the *T*? Champollion deduced he'd found a hieroglyphic homophone for this letter—that is, another symbol having the same pronunciation, as with our *F* and *PH*.

Champollion set about finding other correspondences between Greek letters and hieroglyphs. In 1822, he found non-cartouche-enclosed hieroglyphs spelling out "Ra-mes-ses" (i.e., the name Ramses, used by numerous pharaohs). Bingo! Champollion's work wasn't confirmed until 1866, when another multilingual text was discovered. But he'd figured it out.

The ancient Egyptians weren't the only ones with a glyphic language—the ancient Mayans had one too. Early Spanish explorers attempted to record the Mayan calendar symbols in Spanish, producing a potentially Rosetta-like transliteration, but made a fatal error and got lost. Translation of Mayan glyphs made no real progress until 1952, when Russian linguist Yuri Knorosov pointed out the critical wrong turn in early attempts: the Spaniards assumed each Mayan glyph represented just one sound, whereas really each represented a syllable, or set of sounds, similar to Japanese kana writing.

The ingenuity of linguists in matching up sounds notwithstanding, without some Rosetta-type document or connection to a living language, translation of dead tongues is close to impossible. We have some idea what ancient Etruscan sounded like because Greek and Etruscan letters tend to be used interchangeably in surviving Etruscan writing samples. But for the most part no one knows what the writing says.

So that's how we know how to pronounce ancient Egyptian names. That's not to say an ancient Egyptian would know what you were talking about if you chronoported back to Thebes in the second century BC and asked to see Tutankhamen. As any American knows who's earned Parisian scorn trying to communicate with just a French-English dictionary, the Latin alphabet gives only a rough idea of pronunciation. One wonders how, without a surviving recording, someone in the future would phonetically translate North Dakota, Cajun, or Valley Girl versions of English.

—CECIL ADAMS **IV**



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XOXODEARKIKIXOXO



Dear Kiki,  
 I'm a bisexual woman, and I'm in my first serious relationship with another lady. We're absolutely in love, but lately she's been frustrated with our sex life. I don't really like being eaten out, even though I love going down on her. She says this makes her feel like she's just not good at it. How can I reassure her and get over... \*it\*?

Love,  
 Nervous Clam

**D**ear Sweetheart,  
 Having this conversation was an important step in growing closer in the sheets with your beloved: You're already on your way. The next steps involve more talking and playing and talking again! When I was just an apprentice Kiki, I was told that the first thing you should say when getting negative feedback is "thank you." Facing challenging conversations with an attitude of openness and gratitude is like a potion

for more intimacy and honesty.

I would reframe this issue as one of "getting to know each other (sexy edition)" not fixing \*it\*.

"I've been thinking about our conversation about nervous clams," you might say, "and I really appreciated how you opened up to me about what

**"I really appreciated how you opened up to me about what my clam means to you."**

my clam means to you. I'd love to talk more about what you like and dislike in bed, and to tell you more about what turns me on." There are some exhaustive lists online—*Scarleteen's* is a good standard—cataloging an amazing number of likes, dislikes and might-likes. Use something like that as a reference point for your conversations to establish grounds for what pleasure means to y'all.

Another good resource is showing each other the porn you both like. Try something like *The Crashpad* as an introductory smorgasbord of queer feminist porn. As you talk through and play through your discoveries, you might find you're more open to her mouth on more of you. Even if you still don't like that, she'll know it's not her fault and she'll have more ideas to play with.

Another thing that might come up in all this is internalized biphobia and homophobia. The first thing you told me is that you're bisexual and in your first relationship with a woman, even though this question isn't really "bisexual." Remember: You don't have to prove you're queer. The fact that you feel pressure around this suggests that maybe you feel you do. Queerfolk are asked to prove our loves, our bodies and our humanity all the time. Resist. That shit's for the benefit of others, not our lovers, and certainly not ourselves. I'm casting a protective spell around you and yours so you can focus on being absolutely in love, sweetheart. Good luck! xoxo —Kiki

Questions about love and sex in the city of Iowa City can be sent to [dearkiki@littlevillagemag.com](mailto:dearkiki@littlevillagemag.com). Questions may be edited for clarity and length, and may appear either in print or online at [littlevillagemag.com](http://littlevillagemag.com) lv



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# BRAMBLE ON

Skip the store and hit the woods for a veritable berry bounty!

**H**undreds of species make up the genus of common shrubs known as brambles. No doubt you've been pricked by one of these thorny vines or bushes while ambling along in the Iowa wild. But in June and July, these plants make amends by bearing some of the most beloved fruits: raspberries *Rubus strigosus*, blackberries *R. allegheniensis*, and blackcaps *R. occidentalis* (black raspberries).



Illustration by Jamie Gowans

## BLACKCAP PIE

### CRUST:

**4 CUPS WHITE FLOUR**  
**1 TABLESPOON GRANULATED SUGAR**  
**2 TEASPOONS SALT**  
**1 ¾ CUPS VEGETABLE SHORTENING OR COLD BUTTER**  
**¼ CUP COLD WATER**

**1 TABLESPOON APPLE CIDER VINEGAR**  
**1 LARGE EGG**

## FILLING

**4 CUPS BLACKCAPS**  
**½ CUP WHITE SUGAR**  
**1 TSP LEMON JUICE**  
**4 TABLESPOONS MINUTE TAPIOCA**

### FIND THEM

Brambles can be found on the margins of open fields and cleared woodlands, on roadsides and along fences, in ravines and thickets, in partial or full shade. All edible bramble species bloom with clusters of greenish-white flowers in May or June. Immature fruits will appear hard, pale and white. Leaves are deciduous and grow in groups of three to seven leaflets. Branches are thorny and commonly arch to the ground. Berries are lobe-like: Pick the blackcaps when they are indigo/black and easily detach from the vine. Ripened raspberries will appear red, and blackberries inky purple. All three species may be enjoyed fresh. The juice from the berries stains, however, and the thorny vines mean business, so wear protection if you'd like.

### EAT THEM

- **COMBINE** flour, sugar, and salt in a bowl.
- **CUT** in shortening or butter with a steel fork.
- **MIX** water, vinegar and egg in a bowl and add to dry ingredients. Mix well—dough will be sticky.
- **CHILL** dough for a couple of hours. When ready
- **ROLL** out dough and lay in medium pie tin. Save some dough to seal top of pie.
- **PREHEAT** oven to 375 degrees. In a large bowl, combine berries, sugar, lemon juice and tapioca.
- **POUR** into pie crust and seal top with remaining dough. Crimp edges if you think that looks cool. Make slits in top of crust and smear a little butter on for good measure.
- **BAKE** 25 Minutes or until golden. **IV**

*Tim Taranto holds a BFA in Painting from Cornell University and an MFA in Fiction from the Iowa Writers' Workshop.*

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- AUG 2 } SCREAMING FEMALES**  
**7PM \$10 ADV / \$12 DAY OF SHOW**
- AUG 4 } HOLLY MIRANDA**  
**9PM \$10**
- AUG 11 } ERIC TAYLOR & NATHAN BELL - 8PM**  
**\$12 ADV. / \$15 DAY OF SHOW**
- AUG 15 } SEAN COSTANZA BAND**  
**8PM \$8**

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**BISCUITS & GRAVY - \$4.5/5.5**  
 Two or three homemade biscuits with gravy.

**PANCAKES - \$4**  
 Three homemade pancakes.  
 Add chocolate chips or blueberries for \$1

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## DICK PRALL

DICKIE

[www.dickiemusic.com](http://www.dickiemusic.com)

Since 1998 Dick Prall has been spinning his particular flavor of “sad bastard” pop music (to quote Barry from the film *High Fidelity*). A couple of brilliant power pop releases, a few polished singer-songwriter releases (including a minor hit “The Cornflakes Song” with Glen Phillips of Toad the Wet Sprocket) and now he’s back with a new project called simply *DICKIE*.

*DICKIE* has the introspective pop we’re used to from Prall—the head-hanging desperation, the wistful turn-of-phrase, the hopeful wishes all delivered in a brigade of earworm-wrangling hooks. Kristina Priceman’s violin recalls both Buddy Holly’s final studio sessions (“Pop Pop Pop” reminds me of “Raining in my Heart”) and The Beatles string work in 1965’s “Yesterday.” The addition of strings represented a landmark of maturity in their respective canons as it does for Prall. Priceman’s sawing arpeggios add a fresh light and complexity to the proceedings which serve both to give a common tone to the whole album as well as underscore the emotion of Prall’s vocals.

*DICKIE* is an autobiographical song cycle with each song representing chapters in his life starting with his birth in “Forty-Five” (which is enjoying airplay on KRNA) ironically asking “is this the end of it all?” and ending with “In These Shoes” where he’s mustering up courage to talk to a girl. “I want to stand by you, girl, but there’s not a tread that moves me through the room.” In between is a discernible struggle by Prall to make sense of a past dotted with loss as well as build up to the promise of a better

future.

Prall is a songwriter of the caliber of my very favorite members of the Bruised Hearts Club—the late Elliott Smith, the aforementioned Glen Phillips, Ben Folds, Cat Power, and Sufjan Stevens. With Priceman as partner in composition and foil to his moodiness *DICKIE* is a team that has produced one of my favorite albums both in Prall’s catalog as well as this year.

—Mike Roeder



## URANIUM CLUB

*Human Exploration* (Lumpy Records)

[fashionableidiots.blogspot.com](http://fashionableidiots.blogspot.com)

A lot of biodegradable soy ink has been spilled in the dissection and exegesis of “Attitude,” something Uranium Club has a ton of, mostly of the confrontational, transgressive kind. *Attitude* is the gasoline punk

Matt Stagner, Harry Wohl and “Teen Man”—use aggression and a passion for loud noisy punk rock to encode some curious and nebulous ideas.

Calling a song “Black Semen” isn’t something you do to reach the broadest possible audience. The lyrics (“Black semen on the floor, Black semen in your jeans”) might be about sex, or drugs (“Just watch your intake”), but lines like “the sins of the insects, they don’t apply to me” shade over into William Burroughs territory. “Rafter Man” drifts even farther, into the disassociated rambling of a murderer: “You’re never gonna find that boy, not where I put him.”

“Prissy Chrissy” may (or may not) be about Chrissy shooting a store clerk. Specific, but inexplicable details are given (“The Miss Piggy sticker peeled slowly with liquid underneath”) without ever becoming coherent. There’s implications of violence, and the bleakness of a convenience store, and maybe the clerk is imagining the whole thing to stave off boredom.

Anyone can write ambiguously disturbing lyrics, but Uranium Club makes them stick with their frantic, savage rock and roll attack. Half-sung, half-screamed lead vocals, raucous staccato guitar and trashcan lid drums invite comparison to edgy, uncompromising first-generation bands like Television and Wire. There’s only one guitar tone, fuzzy and scuzzy, which brings to mind AC/DC.

The spirit of 1977 is strong in Uranium Club, but it’s better to judge their work in the context of the present-day Minneapolis music scene, where they offer a fresh and intriguing sound. They’re not a Replacements or Husker Du re-tread; they’re loud and disturbing in a different way entirely. **B**

—Kent Williams

**Anyone can write ambiguously disturbing lyrics, but Uranium Club makes them stick.**

rock runs on, the air punk rock bands choke on. The band—former Iowa Citian Brendan Wells (of the band Solid Attitude, fittingly),

## SUBMIT ALBUMS FOR REVIEW

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**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): I expect you to be in a state of constant birth for the next three weeks. Awakening and activation will come naturally. Your drive to blossom and create may be irresistible, bordering on unruly. Does that sound overwhelming? I don't think it will be a problem as long as you cultivate a mood of amazed amusement about it. (P.S. This upsurge is a healthy response to the dissolution that preceded it.)



**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Expiration dates loom. Fond adieus and last laughs and final hurrahs are on tap. Unfinished business is begging you to give it your smartest attention while there's still time to finish it with elegance and grace. So here's my advice for you, my on-the-verge friend: Don't save any of your tricks, ingenuity, or enthusiasm for later. This is the later you've been saving them for. You are more ready than you realize to try what has always seemed improbable or inconceivable before now. Here's my promise: If you handle these endings with righteous decisiveness, you will ensure bright beginnings in the weeks after your birthday.



**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A company called Evil Supply sells a satirical poster that contains the following quote: "Be the villain you were born to be. Stop waiting for someone to come along and corrupt you. Succumb to the darkness yourself." The text in the advertisement for this product adds, "Follow your nightmares . . . Plot your own nefarious path." Although this counsel is slightly funny to me, I'm too moral and upright to recommend it to you -- even now, when I think there would be value in you being less nice and polite and agreeable than you usually are. So I'll tinker with Evil Supply's message to create more suitable advice: "For the greater good, follow your naughty bliss. Be a leader with a wild imagination. Nudge everyone out of their numbing routines. Sow benevolent mischief that energizes your team."



**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "Every time you resist acting on your anger and instead restore yourself to calm, it gets easier," writes psychologist Laura Markham in *Psychology Today*. In fact, neurologists claim that by using your willpower in this way, "you're actually rewiring your brain." And so the more you practice, the less likely it is that you will be addled by rage in the future. I see the coming weeks as an especially favorable time for you to do this work, Scorpio. Keeping a part of your anger alive is good, of course -- sometimes you need its energy to motivate constructive change. But you would benefit from culling the excess.



**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Much of the action in the world's novels takes place inside buildings, according to author Robert Bringham. But characters in older Russian literature are an exception, he says. They are always out in the forests, traveling and rambling. In accordance with astrological omens, I suggest that you draw inspiration from the Russians' example in the coming days. As often and as long as you can, put yourself in locations where the sky is overhead. Nature is the preferred setting, but even urban spots are good. Your luck, wisdom, and courage are likely to increase in direct proportion to how much time you spend outdoors.



**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Has a beloved teacher disappointed you? Are there inspirational figures about whom you feel conflicted because they don't live up to all of your high standards? Have you become alienated from a person who gave you a blessing but later expressed a flaw you find hard to overlook? Now would be an excellent time to seek healing for rifts like these. Outright forgiveness is one option. You could also work on deepening your appreciation for how complicated and paradoxical everyone is. One more suggestion: Meditate on how your longing for what's perfect might be an enemy of your ability to benefit from what's merely good.



**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): French and Italian readers may have no problem with this horoscope. But Americans, Canadians, Brits, and Aussies might be offended, even grossed out. Why? Because my analysis of the astrological omens compels me to conclude that "moist" is a central theme for you right now. And research has shown that many speakers of the English language find the sound of the word "moist" equivalent to hearing fingernails scratching a chalkboard. If you are one of those people, I apologize. But the fact is, you will go astray unless you stay metaphorically moist. You need to cultivate an attitude that is damp but not sodden; dewy but not soggy; sensitive and responsive and lyrical, but not overwrought or weepy or histrionic.



**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Which signs of the zodiac are the most expert sleepers? Who best appreciates the healing power of slumber and feels the least shame about taking naps? Which of the twelve astrological tribes are most inclined to study the art of snoozing and use their knowledge to get the highest quality renewal from their time in bed? My usual answer to these questions would be Taurus and Cancer, but I'm hoping you Pisceans will vie for the top spot in the coming weeks. It's a very favorable time for you to increase your mastery of this supreme form of self-care.



**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): "I am very much in love with no one in particular," says actor Ezra Miller. His statement would make sense coming out of your mouth right about now. So would this one: "I am very much in love with almost everyone I encounter." Or this one: "I am very much in love with the wind and moon and hills and rain and rivers." Is this going to be a problem? How will you deal with your overwhelming urge to overflow? Will you break people's hearts and provoke uproars everywhere you go, or will you rouse delight and bestow blessings? As long as you take yourself lightly, I foresee delight and blessings.



**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): In her io9.com article on untranslatable words, Esther Inglis-Arkell defines the Chinese term *wei-wu-wei* as "conscious non-action . . . a deliberate, and principled, decision to do nothing whatsoever, and to do it for a particular reason." In my astrological opinion, the coming days would be a favorable time to explore and experiment with this approach. I think you will reap wondrous benefits if you slow down and rest in the embrace of a pregnant pause. The mysteries of silence and emptiness will be rich resources.



**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): "I always liked side-paths, little dark back-alleys behind the main road -- there one finds adventures and surprises, and precious metal in the dirt." The character named Dmitri Karamazov makes that statement in Fyodor Dostoyevsky's novel *The Brothers Karamazov*. And now I'm thinking that you might like to claim his attitude as your own. Just for a while, you understand. Not forever. The magic of the side paths and back-alleys may last for no more than a few weeks, and then gradually fade. But in the meantime, the experiences you uncover there could be fun and educational. I do have one question for you, though: What do you think Dmitri meant by "precious metal in the dirt"? Money? Gold? Jewelry? Was he speaking metaphorically? I'm sure you'll find out.



**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): "Sometimes the road less traveled is less traveled for a reason," says comedian Jerry Seinfeld. His implication is that rejecting traditional strategies and conventional wisdom doesn't always lead to success. As a professional rebel myself, I find it painful to agree even a little bit with that idea. But I do think it's applicable to your life right now. For the foreseeable future, compulsive nonconformity is likely to yield mediocrity. Putting too much emphasis on being unique rather than on being right might distract you from the truth. My advice: Stick to the road more traveled. **IV**

—Rob Breznsky

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